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and the Rhode Island Bible Society

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March 4, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H-7577

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing today in support of H-7577. As advocates for the voiceless and most vulnerable, the Rhode Island State Council of Churches expresses its strong commitment to protecting health care providers and the patients they serve.

Christian reflection on human sexuality is often expressed as a moralizing discourse on sexual activity. Interpretive commitments, as they relate to sacred scripture and church tradition, are regularly employed to enforce this rigid discourse, causing harm through the rejection of a person's being and leading to religious communities insulated from other domains of knowledge.

At its core, the fundamental theological reflection is this: every person is created in the image of God, and, what is created by God is good. The remarkable diversity of gender and sexual orientation that exists reveals the depth and beauty of God's creative activity in the world.

The Council is committed to an expansive view of God's inclusive love, and therefore urges passage of H-7577. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Langill
Executive Minister