

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Gita Pensa <gpensa5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 2:23 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Support for HR 7093

To Whom it May Concern:

As an emergency physician practicing in Rhode Island since 2001, and who spent nearly twelve years of that time embroiled in malpractice litigation for a single case, I urge you to pass this resolution to create a special legislative commission examining health care liability reform in our state.

At a time when the healthcare system in RI is in shambles, we should be trying to attract more physicians to our state. To do this, we need to address the fact that RI is consistently named one of the ['worst states for doctors'](#) in surveys, including ranking abysmally in terms of our malpractice climate.

As a victim of this adverse malpractice climate, I spent a dozen years entangled in a case in which I rendered excellent care. Despite the fact that I prevailed at trial in 2011, and again in 2018 after an appeal, it caused me great psychological stress, had a tremendous impact on my family and personal health, and made me want to quit medicine altogether. Litigation stress is known to be a driver of physician burnout, suicide, and career abandonment, and Rhode Island has among the worst climates in the US. It is time we did something to address it. Ignoring it will lead to further physician attrition, and difficulty recruiting new physicians to our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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