



128 Dorrance Street, Suite 400  
Providence, RI 02903  
Phone: (401) 831-7171  
Fax: (401) 831-7175  
[www.riaclu.org](http://www.riaclu.org)  
[info@riaclu.org](mailto:info@riaclu.org)

## **ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT**

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 25-H 6036, RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – THE RHODE ISLAND CLINICIAN WELLNESS AND SUPPORT ACT March 27, 2025**

The ACLU of Rhode Island supports provisions in this legislation which would implement reforms to limit inquiries about a clinician’s mental health diagnoses and protect clinicians who seek support.

Specifically, § 23-104-7 of this legislation instructs boards of examiners for certain medical fields to revise licensing applications to “eliminate broad questions regarding past mental health diagnoses” and to “emphasize that seeking mental health or substance abuse treatment will not automatically result in disciplinary actions.” We believe these changes will help reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues and align licensing forms with protections within the Americans with Disabilities Act. We also believe that this change will help encourage those in this profession to continue to pursue their treatment and better equip them to serve populations with similar experiences.

Similarly, § 23-104-8 creates protections for clinicians who self-refer to the physician or nurse practitioner health program against mandatory reporting to the professional licensing board. For similar reasons mentioned prior, we feel that this provision encourages clinicians to seek help where they need it, feel safe doing so, and are thus better equipped to help others who experience similar struggles.

Thank you for considering our views.