

Roberta DiMezza

From: Alex Denisevich <cdenisevich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:58 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of H7577

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To the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. As a trans Rhode Islander, I stand with our health care providers and their patients in support of this important legislation.

This legislation is about Rhode Island's ability to protect health care providers, patients and access to essential care, including trans peoples' access to gender affirming care. The bill protects established, best-practice medical care that is legal in Rhode Island and ensures our local providers and health care infrastructure aren't negatively impacted by hostile laws in other states. Because of the laws in Rhode Island, I am able to receive care that allows me to be a happier, more productive member of society.

More than 20 states have enacted bans on essential, established medical care which exert extraordinary control over people's lives and even impose civil and criminal penalties on providers for practicing medicine in line with the professional standards of care. These bans have the potential to cross state lines and impact providers here. This legislation will protect providers, their patients, and ensure the viability of the health delivery system.

I appreciate the support the legislature has shown the provider community in the past and respectfully request your continued support through passage of this vital legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

-Alex Denisevich
East Greenwich, RI 02818