

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Pride in Aging RI <info@prideinagingri.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:10 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of H 7577 The Health Care Provider Shield Bill

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Chairperson Robert Craven  
House Judiciary Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

March 5, 2024

Dear Chairperson Craven:

I am writing on behalf of Pride in Aging RI in strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. Pride in Aging RI (formerly Sage-RI) is a non-profit organization committed to promoting the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ older adults, through service, education and advocacy. Our organization stands with our health care providers and their patients.

This legislation is about Rhode Island's ability to protect health care providers, patients and access to essential 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.

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.

We are grateful for the support the legislature has shown the provider community in the past and respectfully request your continued support through passage of this vital legislation. Please contact me at [your contact] if I can provide any additional information or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Gorman  
Board Co-Chair  
Pride in Aging RI