

Roberta DiMezza

From: Lenna Wertenbaker <ewertenbaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 3:08 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: RIShieldBill@gmail.com
Subject: support for H7577

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Chairperson Robert Craven
House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 7, 2024

Dear Chairperson Craven:

I am writing in strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. I am a resident of Providence. 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. 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. This issue impacts me personally because my spouse is an OBGYN providing the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare to patients here in Rhode Island and needs to be protected, now and throughout her career.

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.

Sincerely,

Elena Wertenbaker
Domestic and Sexual Violence Grants Coordinator