

Roberta DiMezza

From: Gwen Redmond <gredmond@linesiders.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 3:33 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H7577 Healthcare Provider Shield Bill

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To the Esteemed Chairman and Representatives:

I am submitting this testimony to provide my written support of the Healthcare Provider Shield Bill led by Senator Dawn Euer and Rep. John Edwards. This bill emphasizes and establishes the legal right to access transgender and reproductive health care services in the state of Rhode Island. As a friend and ally of many folks in the LGBTQIA+ community, I support any interference with legally protected health care, whether under the color of law or not, as being against the public policy of the state and agree that extending the scope of this bill to address any public act from a foreign jurisdiction that interferes with or prohibits legally protected health care activity within the state of RI. I support allowing individuals who face hostile litigation, as defined by the bill, to initiate civil actions for injunctive, monetary or other appropriate relief within three years of the cause of action accrual.

As a Rhode Island resident, I am truly concerned that if there are any steps made towards this slippery slope of legislating reproductive and transgender medical care as unlawful, we will see our personal rights and beliefs infringed upon. There are no moral or religious grounds that support targeting marginalized communities; fear, misunderstanding and ignorance should not be mistaken for caring or an elevated morality.

I am proud to say that, as a Rhode Islander, we have not sunk to the level of a very local minority who let hatred, bigotry and racism dictate the ability for people to live their authentic lives and share the same access to health care, employment and education that every American has a right to.

Thank you for adding my voice to the testimonies in support of this bill.

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