

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Jessica McCauley <jdmccauley@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2024 1:55 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** In support of the Shield Bill H7577

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and Representatives,

I appreciate this opportunity to share my support of H7577. I am a licensed behavioral health care provider in the state of Rhode Island. As a health care provider, I am intimately aware of the deep impact medical experiences can have on people, whether they be positive or negative. This bill would help insure that the medical system supports rather than further persecutes individuals who struggle for the basic freedoms and rights cisgender people live with, and also worry for their very livelihood. Cisgender people are afforded the right to practice gender affirming care such as laser hair removal or reconstructive surgery after the removal of cancer cells, which improves their mental health. Transgender, nonbinary or gender diverse people should also be afforded the positive mental health effects that come with gender affirming care.

In addition, as a health care provider, I am personally aware of the importance of one's license to provide for themselves and their family. The worry of losing one's license takes an emotional toll, especially when we have others depending on us, and can impact our ability to do what we ethically believe is right. Protecting providers allows us to practice within our integrity as well as our professional ethics, which demand that we always do what is in the best interest of the patient. Thank you again for this chance to support this essential bill.

Best,  
Jessica McCauley

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