

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 the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (RIACEP) in strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. We thank Representative Edwards for introducing this important legislation. RIACEP represents practicing emergency medicine physicians and the patients we serve.

This legislation is crucial as it addresses the potential interference with the delivery of healthcare in our state due to hostile laws passed elsewhere. Such interference not only threatens our provider community but also jeopardizes the well-being of the patients they serve.

At its core, this legislation safeguards established, best-practice medical care that is legal in Rhode Island. By doing so, it shields our local providers and healthcare infrastructure from the adverse effects of hostile laws enacted in other states.

Maintaining Rhode Island as a competitive practice environment is vital for the sustainability of our healthcare delivery system. This legislation aligns Rhode Island with 11 states, including neighboring Massachusetts and Connecticut, ensuring that our state remains an attractive and viable option for healthcare providers.

It is concerning that over 20 states have enacted bans on essential medical care, which not only restrict people's freedom to make important medical decisions but also impose civil and criminal penalties on providers adhering to professional standards of care. The potential cross-border impact of these bans underscores the urgent need for protective measures within Rhode Island.

Access to essential medical care should not be dictated by politicians but should be guided by informed decisions made in consultation with trusted healthcare providers. By enacting this legislation, Rhode Island reaffirms its commitment to preserving individuals' autonomy in healthcare decision-making, in line with our state's values.

We encourage all committee members to support this vital legislation.

Sincerely,



Joseph Lauro, MD  
President