

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** JT <talbuttjulie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 2:55 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Cc:** RIShieldBill@gmail.com  
**Subject:** support of H7577

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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 to express strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. As a clinical Master of Social Work student at Rhode Island College and behavioral health intern at Thundermist Health Center, this legislation is of utmost importance to me and the patients I serve.

This legislation is about Rhode Island's ability to protect health care providers, patients, and access to essential care. The bill ensures that established, best-practice medical care remains legal in Rhode Island and ensures our local providers and healthcare infrastructure aren't negatively impacted by hostile laws in other states.

This legislation is necessary because these hostile laws can potentially interfere with the delivery of health care in Rhode Island and create a chilling effect for providers like me.

**Providers need to practice in a state that protects me and my patients, and so do other providers.** For Rhode Island to ensure the viability of our health delivery system Rhode Island must remain a competitive practice environment. This common-sense legislation brings Rhode Island in line with 11 states, including neighboring Massachusetts and Connecticut.

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.**

I truly appreciate the support that the legislature has shown to the provider community in the past and respectfully request your continued support for the passage of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Julie Talbutt