

## Roberta DiMezza

---

**From:** Kelly Clifton <kelly.c.clifton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 4:32 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** H7577

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

Dear Members of the House Judiciary,

I'm submitting my testimony in support of H7577 to protect legal and standard care of transgender and reproductive medical care for patients and providers in Rhode Island.

All Rhode Islanders deserve protection and the utmost levels of reproductive medical care. The providers who care for us through the joys of childbirth, the pain of child-loss, and the harm of sexual misconduct are lifelines. Their expertise, thoughtfulness, and safety are paramount to anyone requiring reproductive medical care.

I'm so proud to be in a state where services for transgendered neighbors are readily available and research at Brown Medical School is routinely advocating for transgender care. Gender is a spectrum and gender fluidity is not a novel concept. In *Dialogues of Critical Neuroscience*, author Marc-Antoine Crocq writes, "The theme of gender change is frequent in ancient Greco-Roman sources. The reliable historical documents available in the premodern era produced numerous and continuous testimonies of people who led lives that would seem transgender today. (Marc-Antoine Crocq (2021) How gender dysphoria and incongruence became medical diagnoses – a historical review, *Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience*, 23:1, 44-51, DOI: 10.1080/19585969.2022.2042166).

Transgendered individuals offer no threat to anyone else's lives or livelihood, they are simply asking to be treated just like anyone else. They are members of our families, our community, our congregations, our colleagues, our friends, and our loved ones. They are entitled to love, respect, and health care.

Please do everything in your power to protect our access to essential health care and while you're at it, let's do more!

Warmly,  
Kelly

--

She/Her/Hers  
Board Member, [Community MusicWorks](#)  
Board Member, [Sophia Academy](#)