

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 my strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. My name is Dr. Madison Pomerantz, and I am a fourth-year psychiatry resident at Brown University and a member of the Rhode Island Psychiatric Society. I plan to practice reproductive psychiatry after graduating residency this year. This legislation is very important to me, my health care colleagues, and the patients we serve.

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

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

I want to practice in a state that protects me and my patients, and so do other doctors. In order for Rhode Island to ensure the viability of our health delivery system it is imperative that Rhode Island remains 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.**

This is particularly important to me because I have seen the impact that such threats have had on medical care and on our patients. As a future reproductive psychiatrist, protecting access to legal, gold-standard care is of utmost importance to me.

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

Sincerely,

Madison Pomerantz, MD
Providence, RI

