

March 3, 2024

From Syd Loïselle, LICSW
In support of H7577

Dear Chair Craven, First Vice Chair McEntee, Second Vice Chair Knight, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing with enthusiastic support of House Bill 7577, Health Care Provider Shield Bill. This bill gives Rhode Island the ability to protect its health care providers and their patient's ability to access life-saving care within its borders.

My name is Syd Loïselle (pronouns they/them) and I am a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in Rhode Island and a member of the RI NASW's Policy and Advocacy Committee. In my clinical roles, I provide care to young people ages 4 to 25, primarily those who are trans and gender diverse. In addition to my professional experiences, I myself am a LGBTQ+ individual living in and accessing health care in Rhode Island.

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.

I want to practice in a state that protects me and my patients, and so do other providers. 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.

This bill is not only necessary, but life saving. It is my greatest privilege to work with the trans and gender diverse youth of Rhode Island. In order to protect myself, my colleagues, and the youth I serve, I strongly support H7577 and urge the committee to pass this exemplary bill.

Please contact me at my email address below if I can provide any additional information or if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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