

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 Spectrum, the queer medical student alliance, at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. As a student organization uniting LGBTQ+ medical students, Spectrum stands with our healthcare providers and their patients in advocating for their care.

This bill protects the physicians of Rhode Island from hostile laws of other states and allows the medical community to provide the best care for our patients. This legislation can also help incentivize physicians to practice within our state. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges's (AAMC) most recent survey, Rhode Island has one of the lowest retention rates of residents after graduation at 41.4%. By defending our doctors from the potential civil and criminal penalties imposed by states outside of Rhode Island, this bill creates an environment where healthcare providers can feel safe in their practice. Ultimately, this can translate into greater retention of physicians within the state of Rhode Island.

We are grateful for the support the legislature has shown the provider community in the past. Please contact me at my email (attached below) if I can provide any additional information.

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