



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

Office of the Rhode Island Section Chair
Beth Cronin, MD, FACOG

May 7, 2024

Dear Representative Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in **strong support of H8155**, Practice in Probate Courts, which will work to amend the current legal name change process across the state. This bill works to simultaneously streamline the name change process, update the section related to divorce and increase individual privacy.

This legislation will help ease the burden of the name change process for all Rhode Islanders. As an Obstetrician/Gynecologist practicing in Providence, I have cared for many gender diverse individuals from across our state. Many of my patients have been forced to spend many hours and large amounts of money to jump through the hoops currently required to simply change their name on their legal documents. I have had patients tell me they were waiting for their medical leave from our planned surgery to change their name as they weren't able to take the time out of work to manage the multiple steps to do this previously. Simplifying the process will help individuals be safer, have their name affirmed and legally changed in a more efficient process. Additionally, the range of cost differences across the state is also inequitable. This bill will work to eliminate economic barriers for those who need it.

Currently, the practice of public notice is required in many towns which causes safety and risk concerns for many individuals. This process requires paying for an advertisement and publicly outing oneself as transgender, opening individuals up to the risk of targeted attacks. This process needs to not be a requirement. We need to keep all Rhode Islanders safe.

This is currently a dark time in our country with continual attacks on the transgender community. It is important that we adjust the current law to have increased clarity and consistency for all Rhode Islanders. Please support H8155 and vote this bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

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