

Jennifer Lima

H7884

Oppose

I am writing today to urge you to reject H7884, the "Help Not Harm Act".

Rhode Island has been a leader in recognizing the humanity and equality of LGBTQ+ people for decades and was the second state in the US to comprehensively protect transgender people. The residents of this state are proud of that legacy.

As we are seeing a sweeping campaign of attacks targeting transgender people across the country, Rhode Island has the opportunity and responsibility to lead once again by saying no to attempts to bring this dangerous and disingenuous campaign to our state.

H7884 would institute a ban on essential medical care for transgender youth, as well as rolling back protections in healthcare insurance coverage

Instances from other states like Florida and New Hampshire illustrate the detrimental impact of similar bills. They instigate fear among healthcare providers, educators, and families.

We've also seen how even debating dangerous anti-LGBTQ+ proposals such as these negatively affect young people's well-being, increasing anxiety and depression.

That's not Rhode Island's legacy, and it's not what our young people deserve. Please do not support this bill.

Please note that I am currently a member of the school committee in North Kingstown but I am writing as a citizen, not as a member of that body. Thank you.

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