

Testimony in OPPOSITION of House Bill 7884
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Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Rhode Island House Health and Human Services Committee
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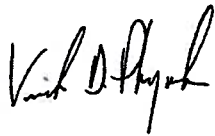
Chair Donovan and honorable members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight Planned Parenthood of Southern New England's **strong opposition to H7884 to ban essential medical care for transgender youth and rolling back protections in health care insurance coverage**. Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) provided sexual and reproductive health care to over 7,000 Rhode Island patients last year. We believe all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

Transgender rights and reproductive rights are inextricably linked, and there is so much work to do to strengthen our state laws to increase the safety and security of rights for transgender people in Rhode Island. This year alone, 586 anti-trans bills were brought forward in legislatures across the nation, 85 of which passed.¹ Many of these bills deny gender-affirming care to people who can consent and want access to this care. This is a clear example of how these types of laws, like abortion bans, are intended to take away people's ability to have control over their bodies and their lives. Transgender and non-binary people deserve to live full, healthy lives. Gender-affirming care is health care and politicians should not interfere with people's ability to access the health care they need. Banning access to legal, life affirming and life-saving care is harmful and dangerous and goes against what every major U.S. medical association has supported as safe, effective standard of care, for transgender youth.

Young people deserve access to affordable health care, whether it's having an abortion or getting gender-affirming care. Planned Parenthood will continue to fight for policies that protect the rights of all people to ensure our patients and communities have what they need to live healthy and self-determined lives and **we urge the committee to vote in opposition of H7884**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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¹ <https://translegislation.com/>