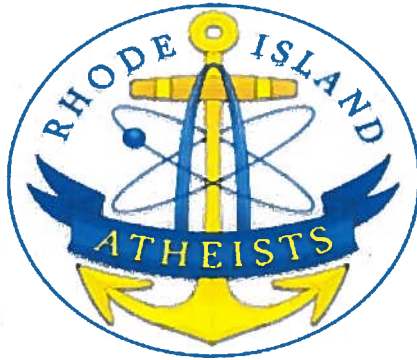


From: Therese Souza <therese.souza@verizon.net>
Sent: April 7, 2024 7:41 PM
To: Ryan, Susan R; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.; Rep. Ackerman, p. Azzinaro, Samuel A.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.; Rep. ing, Barbara Ann; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Handy, Arthur; Rep. Kislak, A.; Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep.ennifer A.; House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: s
Subject: o H7884



April 7, 2024

Dear Chairperson and Representatives,

My name is Therese Souza, Board Member of Rhode Island Atheists, and we strongly oppose H7884 RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN DESERVE HELP NOT HARM ACT -- MINOR'S GENDER TRANSITION. This is another bill that is the product of a nationwide coordinated effort by a group of extremists and backed by wealthy special interest groups. The goal of this bill is to target transgender children, their families, and their private medical decisions by limiting their choices with faith-based laws.

H7884 contains several statements that are either inaccurate or misleading in detail. This bill, like so many clones that have been submitted to the legislature of each state is a shameful attempt to redirect the advice from expert doctors and control the decisions of parents and transgender children.

The origin of this bill and those targeting LGBTQ+ citizens is the belief that humans are created perfectly by their god and that any attempt to change gender is a mistake. These faith-based opinions have no place in our laws. America is a secular nation, and our citizens deserve to make choices for themselves and their families without having to abide by the rules of another religion.

The premise that a god does not make a mistake when creating a fetus is absurd. All one needs to do is look upon the multitude of birth defects and genetic disorders affecting babies born every day. As an example, two percent of infants born with XY sex chromosomes are affected with one of 30 genetic disorders that prevent the formation or complete formation of male genitalia. In some cases, a "female" person may not know that they are XY until they are tested for infertility.

This bill, like other conservative generated propaganda violates the rights of American parents to advocate for their children and help them live their lives according to their own

values. The issues facing families with transgender children do not need to include roadblocks put forth by the State of Rhode Island. For these reasons, I ask you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Therese Souza
Board Member, Rhode Island Atheists
RIAtheists.com