



# RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Honorable Susan Donovan, Chair  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
House Lounge  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 24HB-7884

OPPOSE (Against)

March 19, 2024

Dear Chair Donovan,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), we express our opposition to House Bill 7884. This legislation, prohibiting gender transition procedures for minors and imposing punitive measures on healthcare providers, stands in stark contrast to the best practices endorsed by leading medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association.

Medical consensus supports individualized care for transgender youth, recognizing such treatments as essential for their mental and emotional health. By denying these services, the bill not only infringes on medical ethics but also disregards the well-documented benefits of gender-affirming care.

The bill's restrictions on public funding and the severe legal liabilities it imposes on healthcare providers threaten to undermine the physician-patient relationship and deter medical professionals from practicing in our state. This could exacerbate the existing healthcare provider shortage, affecting not just transgender minors but all Rhode Islanders.

In light of these considerations, RIMS urges the rejection of H 7884, advocating instead for policies that ensure access to comprehensive, compassionate, and evidence-based healthcare for all, including transgender youth.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heather Smith, MD, MPH  
President  
Rhode Island Medical Society