



Rhode Island State Council of Churches and the Rhode Island Bible Society

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Executive Minister

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April 9, 2024

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Opposition to H-7884

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing today in strong opposition to H-7884. The Rhode Island State Council of Churches stands against discriminatory legislative activity directed towards our transgender siblings and opposes any attempt to interject political ideologies of hatred into the provision of safe and legal medical care.

Much of the discourse around the LGBTQIA+ community, especially our transgender siblings, is grounded in misinformation, the denial of being, and fear. Far too often, opponents of providing life-affirming medical care do so under the guise of religious belief and practice, despite the reality that Christian teaching reminds us that all are created in the image of God, and that there is nothing intrinsically disordered about any person's sense of self.

Theological reflections on human sexuality are varied, but they should not be confused with sound scientific and medical practice. When deciding our response to legislative activity, our guiding spiritual principle is this: does the proposed legislation live in the house of fear or in the house of love?

H-7884 decidedly lives in the house of fear. The Rhode Island State Council of Churches strongly opposes this proposed legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Langill
Executive Minister