

April 7, 2024

Dear House Health & Human Services Committee,

I am **against H7884** (RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN DESERVE HELP NOT HARM ACT -- MINOR'S GENDER TRANSITION). This bill will ENDANGER children, and harm their health and safety.

This bill detracts from fostering healthy growth and development among Rhode Island's youth, irrespective of their backgrounds or identities. We must cultivate environments where young people can flourish, learn, and develop critical thinking skills, contributing positively to their communities. Ensuring a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment is crucial for the well-being and educational success of all youth. Research underscores that such environments yield better outcomes for young people. Rhode Island has already demonstrated success in supporting both transgender and non-transgender youth under current laws, and we must CONTINUE to do this for the safety of our children.

Thank you for voting against this bill.

Sydney Montstream-Quas

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