

RE: HB 7884 (P.Morgan, Quattrocchi, Rea) AGAINST

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

My name is Winfield Swanson and I am a resident of South Kingstown. I was deeply disappointed and distressed to learn that certain Rhode Island lawmakers have joined in a cruel and reactionary movement against transgender people.

This bill, HB 7884, rests on several canards and debunked claims that gender-affirming healthcare is somehow dangerous and a threat to children. Yet, in reality, transgender, gender-diverse, and non-binary children are often among the most at-risk groups for psychological distress, homelessness, exploitation, and suicide BECAUSE groups and figures in their communities—in OUR communities—reject, belittle, and persecute them!

Furthermore, I find it hard to believe that the supporters of this bill are sincerely motivated by a desire to prevent medically unnecessary surgeries on children when their bill specifically includes a loophole for Intersex Medical Interventions (Definition (6)(ii)(A) on page 6 of the bill).

I urge this committee and Rhode Island's whole general assembly to reject HB7884!