

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** elliot@nehima.co on behalf of Elliot Berry <elliot@nehima.co>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2025 4:58 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Please SUPPORT HB5857 - a personal message

Chairwoman Donovan and Honorable Committee members,

My name is Elliot Berry, and I live in the Elmhurst neighborhood in Providence. I'm writing to urge your support for House Bill 5857.

Right now, we're watching basic health care rights being stripped away in other parts of the country—especially when it comes to reproductive care and gender-affirming care. These aren't fringe issues; they're core to people's health, safety, and dignity. No one should have to fear being targeted for simply seeking the care they need.

Rhode Island has an opportunity to stand firm against that tide. HB5857 puts real protections in place to shield Rhode Islanders from the kinds of legal attacks we're seeing elsewhere. It ensures that people can access reproductive and gender-affirming care here without outside interference, harassment, or fear of prosecution from other states.

The people most affected by these attacks—women, trans folks, and gender non-conforming people—are often already facing enormous social and economic barriers. Passing this bill is one way we can say, clearly and unequivocally, that we see them, we support them, and we're going to defend their rights.

The people described as such are some of the closest people to me. People I love more than anything - my friends, partner, neighbors, colleagues. I just bought a house here in Rhode Island. I want to live here for the rest of my life, and nothing would make me prouder than to see the people I love defended by the state that I've come to love.

Please support HB5857 and help keep Rhode Island a place where people can safely and freely access the care they need.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration,  
Elliot Berry