

May 1, 2025

Support for H 6210

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Laura B. Wodecki, RN, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC, CCRN and I write to you in support of Rep. Tanzi's bill, H 6210.

The "I'm Sorry" bill that I write to you on would be immensely beneficial to me and my colleagues in the medical field as it would:

- Encourage ethical transparency,
- Reduce malpractice claims and litigation costs,
- Promote healing for both patients and providers,
- Support high-quality, less defensive medical care, and
- Align with modern patient-centered healthcare values.

By reducing unnecessary litigation and defensive medical practices, apology laws can help lower overall healthcare costs for patients, providers, and the state. Institutions with disclosure-and-apology programs have reported **fewer lawsuits and lower settlement costs**¹.

Medical ethics emphasize honesty, transparency, and compassion. Apology laws bring the **legal environment in line with ethical best practices**, removing a significant barrier to open communication. A protected space for apology allows providers to speak with compassion without legal risk.

Passing H 6210 would improve patient safety and transparency. Apology laws foster a culture of openness, where mistakes are acknowledged and discussed rather than concealed. This encourages system-wide learning and continuous improvement, reducing future errors.

Rhode Island is the only state in New England without an apology law. States like ours without such laws are at risk of **being seen as outdated or hostile to transparency**. 39 states have enacted this in some form, which leaves the Ocean State at the mercy of unnecessary litigation.

I support H 6210 and request the committee to pass this critical healthcare initiative.

¹<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6586980/#:~:text=I%20over%20%20where%20medical%20institutions%20have%20lower%20costs%20of%20legal%20settlements,&text=In%20biomedical%20research%20%20egregious%20ethical%20subjects%20are%20often%20widely%20published>

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura B. Wodecki".

RN, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC, CCRN

Associate Chief Nursing Officer

Kent Hospital | 455 Tollgate Rd | Warwick, RI 02886

Office ☎: 401.737.7000 x 31045 | Email ✉ : L.Wodecki@KentRI.org