

May 1, 2025

Support for H 6210

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

My name is Sherri Sprague, MHA, BSN, RN, CENP. I am currently the SVP of Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer for Kent Hospital.

Passing H 6210 is important to me and my colleagues at Kent Hospital because our patients want honesty and empathy when adverse outcomes occur. If my colleagues are free to say "I'm sorry" without legal repercussions, they are more likely to be transparent. Honest communication builds trust and reduces patient anger, which can decrease the likelihood of lawsuits.

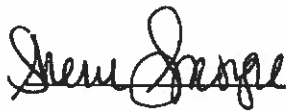
A sincere apology or expression of regret can often defuse tension and lead to informal, amicable resolutions—potentially avoiding litigation altogether. Healthcare professionals, especially those involved in adverse events, often suffer from stress, guilt, and emotional burden. Being able to express sympathy helps them cope and heal without the added fear that their compassion will be twisted into an admission of guilt.

Rhode Island is the only state in New England without an apology law. 39 states have enacted this in some form, which leaves the Ocean State at the mercy of unnecessary litigation. H 6210 will allow my colleagues at Kent Hospital to place their focus on patient care over risk mitigation.

As Chief Nursing Officer at Kent Hospital, I support H 6210 and request the committee to pass this critical healthcare initiative.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherri Sprague". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sherri" and last name "Sprague" clearly distinguishable.

Sherri L. Sprague, MHA, BSN, RN, CENP