

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Craig O'Connor <craig.r.oconnor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:51 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Support HB 6244

Dear members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

Please pass HB 6244 (Rep. Donovan), which would protect access to health care for everyone regardless of immigration status. This is a concrete, meaningful way to push back against the xenophobic and hateful policies of the Trump Administration.

Per the EPI:

- RI should take a stand to protect our immigrant neighbors from unjust treatment.
- People should not be afraid that they could be detained by immigration authorities when they are seeking health care. The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) prohibits healthcare providers from disclosing protected health information — including immigration status — with some exceptions.
- This bill prohibits employees of hospitals, medical centers, community health centers, and other healthcare facilities from asking about the legal immigration status of any patient.
- Health centers and health care staff are not required and cannot be forced to enforce immigration laws.
- The threat of immigration enforcement raises concerns among immigrant families, some of whom may forgo necessary medical services out of fear that they could be putting themselves and their family members at risk.

Thank you,

Craig O'Connor  
Scituate, RI  
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