



American Civil Liberties Union of RI  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Catholics for Choice  
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)  
Hope and Change Partnership  
Humanists of Rhode Island  
League of Women Voters, RI  
Medical Students for Choice  
National Council of Jewish Women, RI Action Team  
Perinatal Quality Collaborative  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
Reproductive Health Access Project

Resolve New England  
RI Academy of Family Physicians  
RI Athiests  
RI Black Business Association  
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
RI National Association of Social Workers  
RI National Organization for Women  
RI Pharmacists Association  
RI Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom  
RI Working Families Party  
Sojourner House  
Upstream  
Women's Fund of Rhode Island  
Women's Health and Education Fund

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To: Representative Robert Craven, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

Date: March 5, 2024

Re: **Support for House Bill 7577 and Opposition to House Bills 7370, 7375, 7529**

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Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write to express the support of the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (RICRF) for House Bill 7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Act. RICRF is a Coalition comprised of 27 organizations working together to share resources, build strategies and coordinate efforts to connect reproductive freedom with social and economic justice. We focus on advocacy and legislative action to enact change. We envision a RI where everyone has access to affordable and comprehensive reproductive health care.

The ongoing threats to reproductive healthcare— which include fertility health care and gender-affirming care across the country—mean our state can't slow down and needs to do all it can to protect and expand access to essential health care. The ability to control one's body is a most basic right that we must uphold.

June 2022's Dobbs decision drastically altered the landscape by overturning Roe and sending reproductive decisions back to the states. Since then we have seen a steady stream of restrictions on reproductive freedom through the country—but we have also seen legislatures like RI's rise to the challenge, fight for justice and access, and work to explore the many ways we can offer rights and protection for all Rhode Islanders to make their own decisions about their bodies.

H7577 offers crucial protection for RI's healthcare providers in order to do their work, to offer complete and conscientious care to each individual who comes before them. The care they

offer is legal in Rhode Island, and we must protect them from the erosion of rights in other states. Please move this legislation forward.

In addition, House Bills 7370, 7375, 7529 are regressive efforts to reduce access to reproductive health care services. They are the types of bills that are being passed in Alabama, Texas, Idaho and more than a dozen other states that to repress bodily autonomy. Please act to defeat these efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "nicole", with a long, sweeping underline.

Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom