

Chairperson Robert Craven
House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 5, 2024

Dear Chairperson Craven:

I am writing in strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. I am a medical student at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and an executive board member of the Brown University chapter of Students for a National Health Program. This legislation is of great importance to me, the healthcare community, and the patients we serve.

This legislation is about **Rhode Island's ability to protect health care providers, patients and access to essential care**. This bill would protect established, best-practice medical care in Rhode Island and ensures our local providers and health care infrastructure aren't negatively impacted by hostile laws as we've seen in other states.

The need for this legislation is critical. Laws from other states have the potential to disrupt healthcare delivery in Rhode Island and are deeply troubling for future providers like myself. I am committed to practicing in a state that prioritizes the protection of both myself and my patients, and I know my colleagues share this sentiment. To ensure the continued viability of our healthcare delivery system, **Rhode Island must remain a competitive practice environment and well as medical education hub. This legislation is a crucial step in that direction, aligning Rhode Island with 11 states, including our neighbors Massachusetts and Connecticut that have passed shield legislation.**

It is concerning that over 20 states have enacted bans on essential, established medical care, exerting extraordinary control over people's lives and even threatening civil and criminal penalties on providers who adhere to professional standards of care. These bans have the potential to cross state lines and impact providers here in Rhode Island.

As a medical student dedicated to the well-being of my future patients, I urge you to support this critical legislation. Please contact me at amy_arthur@brown.edu if I can provide any additional information or if you have any questions.

Together, we can ensure that Rhode Island remains a champion for the health and well-being of all its residents.

Sincerely,

Amy J. Arthur
MD Candidate, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University