

Roberta DiMezza

From: Takeda, Caitlin <caitlin_takeda@brown.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 1:38 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of Health Care Provider Shield Bill (H7577) - Caitlin Takeda

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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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 fourth year medical student at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. After graduating this coming May, I plan to pursue residency training to become a family medicine physician who provides both abortion care and gender-affirming care within a broader scope of primary care services. **I decided to forego applying to family medicine residency programs in Rhode Island because there is no shield law in place for providers in my field of work.** It is a shame that I felt unsafe to provide care to future patients in the state I've lived in for the past 8 years. And as a consequence, I will not be able to be a primary care physician to Rhode Islanders.

More than 20 states have enacted bans on essential, established medical care which exert extraordinary control over people's lives and even impose civil and criminal penalties on providers for practicing medicine in line with the professional standards of care. These bans have the potential to cross state lines and impact providers here. It also means that we have to turn away patients traveling from these ~20 states who seek life-saving care in Rhode Island, because they wrongfully thought this was a safe place to do so.

Simply put, you are losing future physicians due to a lack of legal protection that is commonplace in neighboring states like Connecticut and Massachusetts with health care systems we already lose patients to. It is for the benefit of our healthcare infrastructure and sustenance of a Rhode Island health care student-to-physician pipeline that you vote YES on this bill. I truly hope that there is a day in the near future where Rhode Island medical trainees feel safe to stay in Rhode Island to practice life-saving medical care that is criminalized for providers in other states.

I appreciate the support the legislature has shown the provider community in the past and respectfully request your continued support through passage of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Takeda

4th Year Medical Student
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

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