

Roberta DiMezza

From: Daisy Bassen <dgbassen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 7:12 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: RIShieldBill@gmail.com
Subject: In regards to: H7577

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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 board certified adult and child psychiatrist, practicing in community mental health, and the medical director of a community mental health center. I trained at Brown and have spent the entirety of my medical career caring for Rhode Island children and families. This legislation is very important to me and my health care colleagues, and the patients we serve.

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

This legislation is necessary because these laws have the potential to interfere with delivery of health care in Rhode Island and create a chilling effect for providers like me.

I want to practice in a state that protects me and my patients, and so do other providers. In order for Rhode Island to ensure the viability of our health delivery system it is imperative that Rhode Island remains a competitive practice environment. This common-sense legislation brings Rhode Island in line with 11 states, including neighboring Massachusetts and Connecticut. As someone directly involved with hiring medical staff, I am aware of the difference a law like this will make in attracting the best and brightest physicians and NPs to work in Rhode Island.

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 is critical that the children and families that I treat are able to receive evidence-based best practice care from their local physicians. In many cases, receiving appropriate care is literally life-saving, especially if we consider the impact on LGBTQ+ youth, one of our most vulnerable populations.

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,

Daisy Bassen, MD DFAACAP FAPA
(unaffiliated)