



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 on behalf of The Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Rhode Island in strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. We are a Nurse Practitioner Organization whose mission is to promote the profession of nurse practitioners through education of the public, other health professionals, and legislators. Our organization views this legislation as critical to protecting our health care delivery system and the patients we serve.

This legislation is necessary because hostile laws passed in other states have the potential to interfere with the delivery of health care in Rhode Island and create a chilling effect on our provider community and the patients for whom we care.

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

Rhode Island must remain a competitive practice environment to ensure the viability of our health delivery system. This common-sense legislation aligns Rhode Island with 11 states, including neighboring Massachusetts and Connecticut.

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.

Out-of-state laws banning access to essential medical care take away people's freedom to make important medical decisions for themselves and their families, informed by guidance from trusted providers, and replace it with the wishes of politicians. That's not the Rhode Island way.

We are grateful for the legislature's past support of the provider community and respectfully request your continued support through the passage of this vital legislation.

Please contact me if I can provide any additional information or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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