

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 Hope and Change Partnership (formerly Hope and Change for Haiti) in **support of H7577**, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. Hope and Change Partnership advocates for immigrant rights, including reproductive health care rights and transgender care rights. We invest in community development with a focus on education and wellness. Our organization stands with our health care providers and their patients.

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.

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 consistent with professional standards of care. These bans have the potential to cross state lines and impact providers in RI.** H7577 will protect providers, their patients, and ensure the viability of the health delivery system.

We appreciate the legislature's past support for the health care provider community. We urge your continued support through passage of this critically important legislation. Please contact me at dianebarens@gmail.com or Aniece Germain, our Executive Director at aniecegermain@gmail.com if you have any questions or if we can offer additional information.

Sincerely,

Diane Barens
Member, Executive Board
Hope and Change Partnership