



Chairman Robert Craven
House Committee on Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02908
March 5, 2024

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the Committee:

We are writing in strong and enthusiastic support of House Bill No. H7577. This bill protects physicians and other medical professionals who provide gender-affirming care, family planning, sexual health services, and abortions.

We represent the Executive Leadership Team of the Rhode Island Public Health Institute, which owns and operates Open Door Health. We write to you today with decades of combined work in public health, sexual health, and medical care for LGBTQ+ populations.

The Rhode Island Public Health Institute's mission is to reduce health disparities in Rhode Island and beyond, and we are proud to offer comprehensive solutions to complex public health issues and challenges. Open Door Health is the state's only LGBTQ+ dedicated primary care and sexual health clinic in Providence. The clinic serves over 7,000 patients, most of whom are sexual and gender minorities.

We believe all people have a right to high-quality health services, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression.

In the last few years, we have received threats and been the recipient of other hostile conduct. We believe that our staff and our institution are at risk because of discriminatory practices towards LGBTQ+ patients and our providers.

We believe this bill provides and guarantees important protections that will help keep our staff and patients safe. This bill will also help protect us from unnecessary liability.

Many of our patients are now grappling with mental health challenges because they fear discrimination or they fear that their basic rights to medical care are under siege.

We are happy to put you in contact with other patients and medical providers who can offer nuanced opinions on this matter and its importance for preserving high-quality healthcare for all Rhode Islanders.

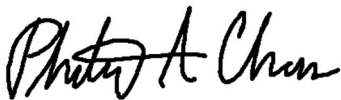
This bill has our most vital support, and we urge you to pass it this session.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Amy Nunn, Chief Executive Officer
RIPHI and Open Door Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Nunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nunn".

Dr. Philip A. Chan, MD
Chief Medical Officer
RIPHI and Open Door Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Chan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Philip" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Chan".