



Dear Chair and Representatives,

My name is Joseph Burgio, Director of Rhode Island Atheists, and I am writing in strong SUPPORT of H7577 the HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SHIELD Act.

We have seen extremist groups in states across the country engaging in alarming government overreach, banning access to essential medical care and instituting civil and criminal penalties on providers for practicing medicine in line with the professional standards of care.

We must protect Rhode Island's health care system, its' providers and those seeking essential medical care. This law will protect established, best-practice medical care that is legal in Rhode Island and ensure that local providers and health care infrastructure aren't negatively impacted by hostile laws in other states.

Certain groups in our state operate with the agenda of targeting those who are dis-empowered and oppressed. These attacks often range from crusades against abortion providers to persecution of LGBTQ+ children in classrooms. Laws like H7577 secure important constitutionally protected freedoms and send a message that Rhode Island will always fight for its' people.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joseph Burgio

Director

Rhode Island Atheists

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