

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 Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives in **strong support of H7577**, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. We are a national organization with a state chapter representing over 80 nurse midwives. Our organization views this legislation as critical to protect our providers and the patients we serve. Nurse midwives work in Rhode Island hospitals, health care centers, and private medical offices delivering gynecological and obstetrical care to patients and their families.

This legislation is about Rhode Island's ability to protect health care providers and their patients, allowing full 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 in line with the professional standards of care. These bans have the potential to cross state lines and impact providers here.**

**It is imperative that Rhode Island remains a competitive practice environment to ensure the viability of our health delivery system. This common-sense legislation brings Rhode Island in line with 11 states, including neighboring Massachusetts and Connecticut.**

We are grateful for the support the legislature has shown the provider community in the past and respectfully request your continued support through passage of this vital legislation. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Maureen Morrow, CNM, MSN, MPH  
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