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March 4, 2024

Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H-7577-Relating to Health and Safety—Health Care Provider Shield Bill

Dear Chair Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Health Center Association, please accept this letter in support of House Bill 7577. This legislation is crucial for ensuring the protection of our state's healthcare providers and the accessibility of care for patients.

By preventing our healthcare providers from being penalized under the laws of other states that have restricted access to established medical care, the Act ensures that patients can continue to receive quality, legal, and essential transgender and reproductive services within our state. The Act will also preserve our state as an attractive place for medical practitioners at a critical time when workforce shortages have resulted in significant challenges to our health care system.

Community Health Centers in Rhode Island provide primary care services to individuals and families who may otherwise struggle to afford or access it, including transgender health care services. I urge you to support this critical legislation to safeguard the rights of healthcare providers and patients and uphold Rhode Island's reputation as a state committed to accessible and equitable healthcare.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

M. Campbell

Melissa Campbell
Policy Manager

Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program ~
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers ~
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action ~
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health