

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 [TGI Network of RI] in strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. [We provide peer led support groups for the Transgender, Gender Diverse and Intersex Community here in Rhode Island]. 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 in line with the professional standards of care. These bans have the potential to cross state lines and impact providers here.** This legislation will protect providers, their patients, and ensure the viability of the health delivery system.

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 at [moniquepaul@tginetwork.org] if I can provide any additional information or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Monique P. Paul
President
TGI Network of RI

