

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 in strong support of H7577, the Health Care Provider Shield Bill. I am a Psychiatry Resident Physician at the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University. This legislation is important to me, my colleagues in healthcare, and the patients we serve.

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 the laws in other states. This legislation is necessary because laws in other states have the potential to interfere with delivery of health care in Rhode Island.

I want to practice in a state that protects me and my patients, and I know this is the case for other providers with whom I work closely. In order for Rhode Island to ensure the viability of our health delivery system it is imperative that Rhode Island remains a competitive practice environment. This common-sense legislation brings Rhode Island in line with 11 states, including neighboring Massachusetts and Connecticut.

More than 20 states have enacted bans on essential, established medical care which exert unnecessary and potentially harmful 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.**

I appreciate the support the legislature has shown the provider community in the past and respectfully request your continued support through passage of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Petrosino, MD
Psychiatry Resident Physician (Post-Graduate Year 4)
Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University