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To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Healthcare ProviderShield Bill

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5 March 2024

The Honorable Robert Craven
Chairperson, Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Representative Craven:

I am writing in support of HR 7577, the Health Care Shield Bill. I am a psychiatrist in practice in Providence. Although I do not provide direct reproductive health care, the passage of this legislation would be relevant and helpful to many of my patients, as well as to my ability to help with their mental health needs.

As you know, mental health issues are extremely important when patients are dealing with reproductive health matters. In psychiatric practice, it is essential that any issue can be discussed openly and honestly

by the patient and the clinician. This would, of course, be especially important in the area of reproductive health, where sensitive issues often arise that are difficult to talk openly about. In my opinion, it is essential that the confidentiality of the therapist-patient relationship be legally protected in order for this important component of healthcare to be provided. Without that protection, such essential treatment would be, in effect, impossible.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Yours
truly,
Paul B. Lieberman, MD

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