

To:

House Committee on Judiciary

From:

Care New England

Date:

March 5, 2024

Subject:

**Support for HB 7577** 

Dear Chairman Craven and members of the Committee,

CNE Health System is a trusted, integrated health care organization that fuels the latest advances in medical research, attracts the nation's top specialty-trained doctors, hones renowned services and innovative programs, and engages in the important discussions people need to have about their health. CNE is helping to transform the future of health care, providing a leading voice in the ongoing effort to ensure the health of the individuals and communities we serve.

CNE is supportive of HB 7577, which will protect our patients and providers in delivering high quality healthcare. Reproductive healthcare and essential medical care for transgender people are legal rights in Rhode Island. Following our neighbors in MA and CT, we encourage the committee to pass this bill to ensure our providers are legally protected and not unfairly punished.

We are appreciative of the opportunity to provide testimony and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Robert Dulski, Director of Government Affairs, RDulski@CareNE.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shannon R. Sullivan, MSW, MS

DID

President & COO

Women & Infants Hospital

Care New England