



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

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

H 7577

March 5, 2024

SUPPORT

Dear Chair Craven:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Shield Bill Coalition in strong support of H7577, the Health Provider Shield Bill.

This coalition is hosted by the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS). Kicking off in January 2024, it came together based on requests from RIMS members and other providers who were concerned about the impact that hostile laws in other states may have on their ability to practice in Rhode Island.

In just over two months the coalition has more than 30 organizational members. Central to the Coalition are provider groups, which include groups representing medical students, nurses, physician assistants, social workers, nurse practitioners, and physicians across multiple specialties including primary care and other specialists. Thousands of Rhode Island providers are represented by these organizations.

Working in collaboration with the provider organizations are health care organizations with state-wide reach. They include hospitals, primary care and specialty clinics, and the health center association whose members serve one in every five Rhode Islanders.

Community organizations focusing on housing, civil rights, LGBTQ+, reproductive rights, and others are also actively engaged in the coalition.

We know you've heard from dozens of coalition members and individual providers about this bill due to how strongly they feel about the importance of protecting Rhode Island providers so that they may be able to continue to provide high-quality, standards-based care to their patients. Passage of this bill not only protects providers and individual patients, but it protects the larger system by ensuring Rhode Island is able to recruit and retain providers into the future. This is particularly important given the legal protections in our neighboring states.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Rhode Island's health care community. Your support of H7577 will go a long way to ensuring Rhode Island remains a leader in health care.

Sincerely,

Stacy Paterno
Executive Vice President
RI Medical Society

Coalition Members as of March 4, 2024 list in formation

Provider Groups:

American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter
American Association of Nurses- RI/Rhode Island State Nurses Association
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians, RI
National Association of Social Workers
Nurse Practitioner Alliance of RI
Primary Care-Population Medicine MD-MSc Program Class of 2024
Rhode Island Academy of Family Medicine Physicians
Rhode Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians
Rhode Island Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Rhode Island Medical Society
Rhode Island Academy of Physicians Assistants
Spectrum

Health Care Delivery:

Hospital Association of Rhode Island
Open Door Health
Planned Parenthood of Southern NE
Thundermist Health Center
Rhode Island Health Center Association

Other Interested Parties:

ACLU
Center for Reproductive Rights
COYOTE
GLAD
House of Codec
Protect Our Health Care RI
PPRI Votes
Pride in Aging
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom
RI Public Health Institute
The Womxn Project
TGI Network
Youth Pride Inc