

Roberta DiMezza

From: Stephanie Hartselle, MD <stephaniehartsellemd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 1:01 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Regarding Bill H7577

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To:
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 pediatric and adult psychiatrist and run a group practice of seven physicians. We provide care to Rhode Island patients of all ages. We are also licensed in five additional states, providing virtual care to child and adult patients who cannot access large cities. Every MD in my practice sees patients who are at risk for legislation interfering with their basic health care needs.

We are incredibly concerned about the future of these patients to receive health care and do so safely without the threat of harm, legal trouble or worse. We as providers are also concerned about any legislation that will restrict or endanger us as doctors.

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 the doctors providing care as my group does.

This legislation will protect providers, their patients, and ensure the viability of the health delivery system. 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. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hartselle, MD
Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Brown University
CEO Hartselle & Associates

Providence, Rhode Island



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