



March 5, 2024
In Support of H7577
On behalf of NASW-RI

To the Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am thrilled to be here testifying on behalf of the National Association of Social Workers Rhode Island Chapter (NASW-RI) in strong support of H7577. We are the state chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, dedicated to advancing social work professional practice and promoting civil rights and social and economic justice for all Rhode Islanders. Our organization views this legislation as critical to protect our profession, our members, and the people they serve.

Rhode Island has demonstrated a longstanding belief in the right for Rhode Islanders to access medically necessary, evidenced based, reproductive healthcare and transgender healthcare. The NASW RI Chapter is inherently aligned with this belief and supports protecting the established, evidenced-based care our social workers and collaborating providers are currently providing here in RI. In short, this bill ensures that our providers are not negatively impacted by hostile laws from other states.

We believe social workers in RI should have the opportunity to focus on their work, not threats from other states. By passing this bill into law, social workers will have more protection in going to work each day confident in their clinical responsibilities, their evidence-based practices, and the backing of the state of RI that the care they provide will continue to be protected.

Social workers and other providers want to continue providing good care here in Rhode Island. Our workforce must remain competitive. RI would help to make this possible by joining the more than a dozen other states enacting provider shield bills.

We are grateful for the support the legislature has shown the social work community and respectfully request your continued support through passage of this vital legislation. We love our work and we want to keep providing this necessary care.

Syd Loiselle, LICSW, C-ACYFSW
Member, NASW RI Chapter