



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
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Peter F. Neronha
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March 5, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman
House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary
State House, House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: HB 7577 - Health Care Provider Shield Act

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write today in support of HB 7577, sponsored by Representative Edwards, legislation that will help to protect Rhode Island health care patients and providers by ensuring access to high quality, medically necessary health care.

One of the most important goals of my administration has been ensuring continued access to high-quality and necessary health care. In Rhode Island, family doctors, OBGYNs, and other clinicians and their patients must be secure in their ability to deliver and receive essential, standard-of-care medical treatment – treatment that has come under an alarming, discriminatory assault in more than a dozen states. We must join the growing number of states, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont, among others, that have acted affirmatively to ensure that reproductive and gender affirming health care providers who comply with Rhode Island laws and regulations are protected from overreach by states who deny their residents access to this necessary and essential care.

At its core, HB 7577 ensures that our health care providers are secure and that valuable state resources are not used to further discriminatory laws in other states. As such, these laws stand for access to health care not only for Rhode Islanders, but for all Americans. That is something that we should all support and that's worth fighting for.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General