

**Testimony in support for House Bill 6174**  
**AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS –**  
**PROTECTIONS OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ACT**  
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**Planned Parenthood of Southern New England**  
**House Committee on Judiciary**  
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Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) with **support for House Bill 6174 with suggested amended language**. Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 8,000 Rhode Island patients last year. Planned Parenthood believes all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

In no uncertain terms, access to abortion was devastated by the overturning of *Roe v Wade* causing a public health crisis. We are at a critical moment in our country. Our basic health care and rights are on the line. The anti-abortion movement's goal is to ban abortion by any means necessary. They have tried to end access to FDA-approved Mifepristone, which has been proven safe and effective over and over for decades. They have taken to the courts to try to end emergency medical care for pregnant people. They are trying to shut down Planned Parenthood via federal court in Texas.

While threats to abortion access continue Rhode Island has been a leader and taken swift action to protect and expand reproductive health and rights including passing the Healthcare Provider Shield Act last session to protect health care providers delivering essential care to patients in Rhode Island. We see shield laws help to ensure those providing necessary legal health care — including abortion and health care for transgender people — can continue to do so even when facing the threat of hostile enforcement from states that have banned this essential care. H 6174 is another step to further protect health care providers in our state.

We support H 6174 with the following suggested amended language to allow prescriber discretion about whether or not they want to utilize the law:

- a. Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter to the contrary, at the prescriber's request, the prescription label for medication abortion prescription drugs ~~shall~~may include the name of the dispensing healthcare practice instead of the name of the dispenser.

This language is an essential edit that allows providers to *request* that clinic names are included instead of prescriber names for medication abortion and more closely mirrors the laws enacted in NY and WA. The change to "may" mirrors the other enacted laws and makes clear that including clinic names instead of provider names on medication abortion labels is lawful under state law.

Planned Parenthood will continue to fight for policies that protect the rights of all people to ensure our patients, and our communities have what they need to live healthy and self-determined lives. Rhode Island can continue to strengthen state laws to protect health care providers and that is why we respectfully ask the committee to support H 6174 with amended language. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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