



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-H 7208,
AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE-
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION AND DATA PRIVACY ACT**

House Committee on Judiciary

Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

February 11, 2026

Dear Chair McEntee and honorable members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

In my capacity as the Director, Public Policy and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony **in support of House Bill 7208**. PPSNE provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 10,000 Rhode Island patients last year and 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.

With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, and the subsequent and ongoing criminalization of abortion health care and other reproductive and gender-affirming health care services, preservation of electronic data privacy has only become more urgent and necessary. Certain digital information that is not covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) - but that can still indicate health care access, such as, but not limited to, cell phone location services, online search history, and browser history – has taken on an additional layer of sensitivity as access to this unprotected data could be used to track whether a patient visited a reproductive health care center or has been researching reproductive or other health care services.

Rhode Island has, in the past decade, adopted a number of proactive pieces of legislation to ensure that access to reproductive services and gender-affirming services is codified within our state statute. Though residents of our state face a lesser risk of having personal digital information used to aid their own criminalization for accessing this health care, adding in place safeguards such as requiring a warrant prior to accessing location data and

other electronic data only further protects patient privacy and thus enhances the safety of accessing health care. In this same respect, we urge the committee to additionally support Representative Knight's legislation, H 7357, which explicitly delineates an infrastructure for the preserving of data privacy relating to reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Stern', is positioned above the typed name.

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