
House Committee on Judiciary
February 11, 2026
Support for H 7548

Dear Chairwoman McEntee,

My name is Sherri Sprague, MHA, BSN, RN, CENP. I am currently the SVP of Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer for Kent Hospital.

Passing H 7548 is important to me and my colleagues at Kent Hospital because our patients want honesty and empathy when adverse outcomes occur. If my colleagues are free to say "I'm sorry" without legal repercussions, they are more likely to be transparent. Honest communication builds trust and reduces patient anger, which can decrease the likelihood of lawsuits.

A sincere apology or expression of regret can often defuse tension and lead to informal, amicable resolutions, potentially avoiding litigation altogether. Healthcare professionals, especially those involved in adverse events, often suffer from stress, guilt, and emotional burden. Being able to express sympathy helps them cope and heal without the added fear that their compassion will be twisted into an admission of guilt.

Rhode Island is the only state in New England without an apology law. 39 states have enacted this in some form, which leaves the Ocean State at the mercy of unnecessary litigation. H 7548 will allow my colleagues at Kent Hospital to place their focus on patient care over risk mitigation.

As Chief Nursing Officer at Kent Hospital, I strongly support H 7548 and request the committee to pass this critical healthcare initiative.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sherri L. Sprague, MHA, BSN, RN, CENP
SVP Pt. Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer
Kent Hospital - Care New England Health System