



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-H 7211,  
AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT-  
THE RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
March 4, 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 H 7211**. 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.

People achieve reproductive freedom when they have full autonomy over their bodies and lives – this not only includes access to health care, but the ability to live in communities that are not over-policed; the ability to live without fear of having families torn apart; and to live without fear of harm from discriminatory policies. In light of the ongoing – and discriminatory and unlawful – federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement actions over the past year, it is particularly critical to ensure that no Rhode Islander is afraid to leave their home and face unrecognizable and unidentified federal agents in the course of their daily activities, including as they seek out and access health care services.

This legislation aims to enforce a level of clarity as to the operations of ICE officials in our state, and to ensure that ICE agents do not obfuscate their own identities during their interactions with the public. Critically, it also will assist in preventing scenarios of civilians impersonating federal agents. Anonymity is not a privilege that should be extended to agents of the government, especially those who act in extrajudicial ways and whose professions can facilitate the deprivation of constitutional rights.

In line with PPSNE's dedication to fighting for policies that comprehensively protect the lives of all Rhode Islanders as a way of ensuring that our patients, and our communities, have the resources they need to live healthy, safe, and self-determined lives, we urge support for H 7211.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

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

Hannah Stern  
Director, Public Policy and Government Relations  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
[hannah.stern@ppsne.org](mailto:hannah.stern@ppsne.org)