



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Bill No.: HB 7185
An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Protections of Healthcare Providers Act

Primary Sponsors: Representatives Boylan, Ajello, Donovan, Kislak, Fogarty, Carson, McGaw, Cotter, Stewart, Speakman

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary

Date: March 10, 2026

The Rhode Island Women’s Bar Association (“RIWBA”) supports this bill. RIWBA is a non-profit organization that promotes the advancement of the status of women in the State of Rhode Island and in the legal profession.

The primary focus of the Protections of Healthcare Providers Act is to permit the prescription label for medication abortion prescription drugs to include the name of the dispensing healthcare practice instead of the individual dispenser. The goal of this legislation is to strengthen safety protections for healthcare providers who deliver legally protected reproductive healthcare services. By allowing the use of a practice name on prescription labels in lieu of an individual provider’s name, this bill addresses legitimate concerns about harassment, intimidation, and targeted threats directed at clinicians who provide abortion care. The measure is narrowly tailored and does not alter patient access to care, regulatory oversight, or standards of medical practice.

This Act represents a careful balance between provider safety and accountability. Prescriptions will continue to be issued and dispensed within Rhode Island’s existing regulatory framework, ensuring oversight and traceability while minimizing unnecessary exposure of individual clinicians to potential harm. By addressing a discrete vulnerability in prescription labeling requirements, the bill strengthens Rhode Island’s commitment to both public health and the rule of law.

RIWBA strongly supports this legislation because the rule of law is only meaningful when lawful rights can be exercised in practice. Access to reproductive healthcare, protected under Rhode Island law, depends upon the ability of qualified healthcare professionals to provide that care without fear of personal targeting, harassment, or violence. When clinicians are subjected to intimidation, doxing, or threats, the predictable result is a chilling effect that reduces provider availability and destabilizes access to care. That burden falls most heavily on women, particularly those who are economically vulnerable or living in underserved communities. As women lawyers committed to equal justice, bodily autonomy, and the integrity of our legal system, RIWBA recognizes that safeguarding providers is essential to safeguarding patients. Protecting healthcare professionals from targeted harassment ensures that legally authorized medical services remain accessible, thereby upholding both the rights of Rhode Island women and the State’s commitment to the fair and orderly administration of the law.

In essence, RIWBA views HB 7185 as a measured and necessary step to safeguard healthcare providers and preserve meaningful access to reproductive healthcare in Rhode Island. For these reasons, RIWBA respectfully urges the Committee to favorably consider this bill.

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