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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON 26-H 7185, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS – PROTECTIONS OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ACT March 10, 2026

Because we believe it is important to ensure that Rhode Island remains an environment for individuals to receive safe, accessible, and legal healthcare services – and an environment for professionals to provide these healthcare services – the ACLU of Rhode Island supports this legislation, which would allow the prescription label for medication abortion drugs to include the name of the dispensing healthcare practice instead of the dispenser.

This is a logical extension of the Healthcare Provider Shield Act that the General Assembly passed in 2024, which protected medical providers from threats of civil or criminal actions from other states for providing gender-affirming and reproductive health care. This legislation would act in a similar way and help protect the identities of the prescribers of this medication, which helps ensure that they can continue prescribing it without fear of inappropriate adverse consequences.

Thank you for considering our views.