

Testimony for the Record
Submitted to the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
March 10th, 2026
Danielle Small, LICSW

Thank you to the Committee for today's hearing and attention to the topic of health and safety for our citizens seeking reproductive and gender affirming care.

My name is Danielle Small and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Rhode Island. I have spent the last three years of my career supporting members of the LGBTQ+ community to access Gender Affirming Care and competent resources that are so abundant in our state.

In my profession is it a growing concern that privacy of patient records and confidentiality is at risk for clients accessing healthcare, including mental healthcare. Given the current climate that is seeking to remove and deny access to reproductive and gender affirming healthcare is unacceptable. Supporting HB No. 7357 would protect our communities' right to access life-saving healthcare.

I urge the committee to support HB No. 7357 to enshrine our protections for reproductive and gender affirming care. I am pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Thank you to the Committee for today's hearing and attention to the topic of health and safety for our citizens seeking reproductive and gender affirming care.

My name is Danielle Small and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Rhode Island. I have spent the last three years of my career supporting members of the LGBTQ+ community to access gender affirming care, including medical transition support such as hormone replacement therapy (HRT). I encourage the committee to consider amending HB No. 7185 to include prescriptions that are considered HRT to protect the rights of the patient and the providers. [Massachusetts has passed a similar shield law that includes gender affirming care.](#)

Patient access to reproductive health and gender affirming care is a concern for all Rhode Island citizens, we are all impacted by the persecution of this life saving healthcare and you as the members of our house committee have the opportunity to ensure our citizens are protected and safe.

I ask the committee to support HB No. 7185, and amend it to include hormone replacement therapy and other forms of gender affirming prescriptions. I am pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.