

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** Diana Wohler <diana.wohler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:10 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** SUPPORT for HB7357

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Dear Chair McEntee and honorable members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Diana Wohler, I am from North Kingstown. I am a family physician in West Warwick, RI.

I am testifying in support of House Bill 7357 (Rep. Knight). This bill is an important step to protect sensitive consumer health data related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care. This is urgently needed following the overturning of *Roe* in the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and the increase in attacks on access to reproductive and gender-affirming health care across the country. This bill will ensure Rhode Island follows through on its promise to be a safe harbor for our residents and those who seek care within our state's boundaries and is an essential next step after passing the Healthcare Provider Shield Act in 2024.

As someone who provides primary care, gender affirming care, and reproductive health care for hundreds of patients in Rhode Island, I am concerned for my patients. We have seen an alarming amount of data collected from private companies released, leaked, sold to other companies, and other practices that put patient privacy at risk. These breaches of privacy are even more concerning when we consider the vulnerable position that LGBTQ+, especially trans\* and nonbinary individuals, are in with the recent wave of anti-trans legislation on both the state and federal level. We have also seen increased criminalization of pregnant persons in the wake of the *Dobbs* decision. HIPAA only protects medical information, and not other health-related fitness apps, retailers, period trackers, and other information. This information deserves to be as protected.

House Bill 7357 will give consumers more control over their personal data that is generated through various means, including period trackers, fitness apps, location-based services, and even at brick-and-mortar establishments, all of which may demonstrate or provide a means of identifying or predicting someone's pregnancy status or other identifying information about their identity including gender identity.

In a post-*Roe* landscape, strengthening privacy and confidentiality protections for reproductive health and gender-affirming health care is urgent. The *Dobbs* decision changed the privacy landscape- and it's our responsibility to further protect patients seeking legally protected health care in Rhode Island which is why I strongly support H7357. All people, no matter where they live, should be able to make personal health care decisions and access their care with privacy, safety, and security.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Diana Wohler, MD

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Diana Wohler, MD  
She/Her/Hers