

Roberta DiMezza

From: Frishman, Gary <gary_frishman@brown.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 8:43 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony in support for H7357

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

My name is Gary Fishman. I live in Cranston and I am reaching out as a proud Rhode Island citizen, a concerned physician, and as a board member of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England.

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.

This bill is critically important to me on several levels. First, I have two family members as well as friends' children who are directly impacted by this issue. The fact that I, alone, have so many people that I am directly linked to that are impacted speaks to the importance and prevalence of this issue. This is especially critical given the attempted changes to privacy and confidentiality protections at the federal level.

I am also deeply influenced by my training and practice as a Reproductive Endocrinologist in Rhode Island. I've heard directly from patients about this issue and, in my field, I am extremely familiar with the impacted population and the potentially disastrous sequelae that may occur.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly about this bill and any information or testimony that I can provide. I am so proud and privileged to live in Rhode Island where I believe that these privacy and confidentiality protections are part of our landscape and inherent value system. It is so critical that we all support H7357 as the potential changes to our society and our Rhode Island population are potentially nothing short of calamitous.

Please let me know what I can do to further this cause. Thank you for your time and service to our State.
Gary
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