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March 9th, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

re: support for H7357

Dear Chairwoman Hagan McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Rhode Island State Council of Churches strongly supports the **Reproductive Freedom and Gender-Affirming Care Health Data Privacy Act (H 7357)**.

There is a vast amount of personal data collected by companies, sometimes without our knowledge and consent. This bill provides protective measures to ensure privacy, safety and security for health care data.

Currently, health care providers are restricted from sharing data by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). However, HIPAA protections are not extended to health-related data held by fitness apps, period trackers, retailers, and employers. This bill's coverage is directed at those entities that are not covered by HIPAA.

Other states have increased their prosecution of health care that is protected in Rhode Island. So, concerns about health data are even more consequential. This bill also covers "precise location information that could reasonably indicate a consumer's attempt to acquire or receive" reproductive and gender-affirming care.

Strong data privacy safeguards are about promoting safety, dignity and well-being, while preventing discrimination, intimidation and harm. It has long been accepted people should be able to access health care with privacy, safety and security.

We strongly urge passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

Rev. Eugene T. Dyszlewski

Chief Social Justice Commissioner, Rhode Island State Council of Churches