

March 9, 2026

Clerk Roberta DiMezza

House Judiciary

RI Legislature

(401) 222-2258

HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

Ms. DiMezza:

Attached please find a letter from Roberto H. Rodriguez, Jr., which is to be filed in favor of the Data Privacy Act (H7357) and is being heard by the House Judiciary Committee tomorrow at 4:00 pm. The letter is addressed to State Representative Patricia A. Serpa. Mr. Rodriguez resides in West Warwick. A copy should be provided to K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the house of Representatives.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Cordially,

Roberto Rodriguez

Trod5@aol.com

(401) 486-5494

March 9, 2026

Roberto H. Rodriguez, Jr.
19 Royal Drive
West Warwick, RI 02893

Ms. Patricia A. Serpa
State Representative
District 27
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
Email: rep-serpa@rilegislature.gov

State Representative Serpa:

As one of your constituents and Vice President of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, I am urging you to support and enact the **Reproductive Health and Gender Affirming Healthcare Data Protection Act, H7357**.

Health care depends on trust. Patients must feel confident that deeply personal medical information—particularly related to reproductive and gender-affirming care—will remain private and fully protected. When individuals fear that their health data could be disclosed or misused, they may delay or avoid care, putting their health and well-being at risk.

In these areas of care, inadequate data privacy carries especially serious consequences. Medical records can expose patients, families, and clinicians to stigma, discrimination, or legal and social harm. Decisions that belong solely within the patient-provider relationship can become vulnerable to outside scrutiny when privacy protections are weak, undermining personal autonomy and sound medical judgment.

As a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Greenwich, we are taught to protect reproductive and gender affirming care, viewing them as essential to upholding human dignity, autonomy, and the baptismal vow to respect all people. Health data privacy is integral to that space of wellbeing.

Strong health data privacy safeguards are not about politics; they are about dignity, safety, and the freedom to seek lawful medical care without fear. I encourage you to support this legislation and help ensure that personal health information cannot be weaponized against those seeking care.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roberto H. Rodriguez, Jr.
Ret., AUSA
Middle District of Florida