



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-H 8077,  
AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
March 24, 2026**

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

In my capacity as the Director, Public Policy and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony **in support of House Bill 8077**. PPSNE provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 10,000 Rhode Island patients last year and believes all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

Especially given the ongoing federal attacks on sexual and reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care, taking proactive steps to ensure the privacy of all people seeking this critical care is essential. States that have protected this health care – like Rhode Island – have a responsibility to ensure that anyone receiving this care does not face repercussions because of data that they did not even know was being collected, shared, or accessible to police departments across the country. H 8077 is necessary to curb the expansive proliferation of government surveillance tools, including automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology from companies like Flock Safety, which record massive amounts of information that could be used to infer and criminalize the seeking of health care.

ALPR data is currently collected, stored, and shared without any state or federal oversight or limitations on the use of the data. Because ALPRs are typically contracted between local police departments and private entities, the data collected is subject only to the policies developed internally and with no statutory restrictions for use of this data for purposes of, for example, immigration enforcement; prosecuting for the seeking of

abortion health care services; or other health care services. This impacts the ability for all individuals to safely and privately seek necessary health care without the fear of criminalization from data that they may not even be aware is being collected.

Though we are strongly supportive of the due process and privacy protections that this bill would ensure for the use of ALPR data collected in our state, we note particular favor for the provisions in this legislation that would specifically protect this data from use in immigration enforcement and for the purposes of tracking a person's access to reproductive or gender-affirming health care services. The protections that we have fought so hard to enshrine in our state laws depend upon safeguards against peripheral attacks on these rights – this is one such of those imperative pieces of legislation to ensure that individuals have the full freedom to take advantage of their rights.

The types of incidents that these provisions would prevent are not existential fears. In fact, just last year, Flock Safety ALPR data was found to have been used by police in Texas to track a woman who was suspected of receiving an abortion.<sup>i</sup> We must ensure that private companies are unable to infringe upon the rights that our state has vigilantly sought to protect and has statutorily guaranteed for all individuals who seek health care within our state boundaries.

Planned Parenthood will continue to fight for policies that protect the rights of all people to ensure that our patients and our communities have what they need to live healthy and self-determined lives. H 8077 is a critical step in ensuring that all Rhode Islanders have the privacy, safety, and security to access the health care that they need.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



Hannah Stern  
Director, Public Policy and Government Relations  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
[hannah.stern@ppsne.org](mailto:hannah.stern@ppsne.org)

---

<sup>i</sup> [Texas police used nationwide license plate reader network to track woman who had self-managed abortion | The Independent](#)