



March 27, 2024

The Honorable Arthur Corvese
Chairperson, House Labor Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairperson Corvese,

I write in strong support of The Nick Arjomand No Weight Discrimination Act (H 7883). This bill is crucial to ensure that weight discrimination is prohibited and does not prevent Rhode Islanders from accessing basic civil rights in the form of employment and public accommodations. It will protect people from experiences of weight discrimination that lead to significant harm to individuals across the lifespan.

Currently, it is legal to exclude a person from hiring, promotions, or even to fire them because of body size or weight. It is legal to deny a person housing or rental based on body size or weight. It is legal to deny a person public accommodation in many settings including educational institutions because of body size or weight. Weight discrimination impacts LGBTQ+, women, working class, and people of color at higher rates.

Thundermist Health Center understands the challenges presented by weight discrimination and is working to address the stigma associated with body types through its size-inclusive health approach. There is a robust body of evidence that shows the impact of weight discrimination leads to negative health outcomes. One local example of the evidence comes from our very own University of Rhode Island. The published research titled *Perceived Weight Discrimination and 10-Year Risk of Allostatic Load Among US Adults* (Vadiveloo & Mattei, 2017) showed that no matter a person's weight, experiences of a weight discrimination posed a 2-3x increased risk to a person's health. These risks impact cardiovascular, inflammatory, glucose metabolism, lipid/metabolic, high blood pressure, and mental health conditions.

WOONSOCKET

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Dental & WIC

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WEST WARWICK

Medical

186 Providence St.
West Warwick, RI 02893

Phone: 401-615-2800
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Dental

5 Washington St.
West Warwick, RI 02893

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SOUTH COUNTY

Medical & Dental

1 River St.
Wakefield, RI 02879

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Dental Phone: 401-783-5646
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Pediatrics

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I urge you to give your full support to this important legislation and protect Rhode Islanders from weight discrimination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanne LaChance
President/CEO