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**Member Agencies**

Blackstone Valley  
Advocacy Center  
Domestic Violence  
Resource Center of  
South County  
Elizabeth Buffum  
Chace Center

Women's Resource Center

**Task Force**

Sisters Overcoming  
Abusive Relationships

**Affiliate Members**

Center for Southeast Asians  
Crossroads Rhode Island  
Family Service of Rhode Island  
McAuley Ministries –  
McAuley Village  
Progreso Latino  
YWCA Rhode Island

To: Representative Susan R. Donovan,  
Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee  
Honorable Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Lucy Rios, Executive Director  
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Date: March 10, 2026

Re: **Support for House Bill 7357**

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On behalf of our network of member agencies and SOAR, our taskforce of survivors, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) appreciates this opportunity to express our **strong support for House Bill 7357**. This bill is an important step to protect sensitive consumer health data related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care. 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.

In this post-Roe landscape where states are rapidly moving to criminalize abortion care and jeopardize access, data shared between companies, private parties, and the government are already being utilized to surveil, penalize, target and harass individuals accessing health care and their support networks. Federal and state governments, as well as the private sector, have an important role to play in strengthening privacy protections and mitigating the threat of surveillance and criminalization for those seeking reproductive and gender-affirming health care.

House Bill 7357 will give consumers more control over their personal data that is generated through various means, including period trackers, fitness apps, location-based services, and even at brick-and-mortar establishments, all of which may demonstrate or provide a means of identifying or predicting someone's pregnancy status or other identifying information about their identity including gender identity.

These privacy protections are critical to survivors of domestic violence. Reproductive control is one form of violence that survivors experience, in which partners who use violence sabotage or interfere with the survivor's reproductive health and decision-making. In a 2010 study conducted jointly by the University of California-Davis School of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health, researchers found that at least 35% of domestic violence victims reported reproductive control by their abusive partner either by contraception interference or coercion to become pregnant.<sup>1</sup>

The safety of the thousands of survivors served by our member agencies every year depends upon privacy and confidentiality. Survivors of violence deserve to lead lives free from surveillance and privacy abuses that could further endanger their peace and security.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. We urge you to support **House Bill 7357**.

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<sup>1</sup> "Pregnancy Coercion, Intimate Partner Violence, and Unintended Pregnancy," Miller, et al. *Contraception*, Volume 81, Issue 4, 2010.