



Gretchen Raffa
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Testimony in SUPPORT for House Bill 8318
RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT
House Committee on Health and Human Services
March 30, 2026

Chair Donovan and honorable members of the House Committee on Health Human Services Committee, my name is Gretchen Raffa, Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) testifying in **support of House Bill 8318 (Rep. Knight)**. 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.

We are grateful for the Rhode Island General Assembly’s ongoing commitment and action to protect and expand reproductive freedom. While abortion and gender-affirming health care are legal in Rhode Island, we are not immune to the efforts of the anti-abortion and anti-trans movement’s attempts to restrict or deny access to care. H 8318 is another opportunity for Rhode Island to follow through on its promise to be a safe harbor for our residents and those who seek legally protected health care within our state’s boundaries. This bill is a key step our state can take after passing the Healthcare Provider Shield Act in 2024 while we also work on another data privacy bill moving through the legislature this session H7377. Privacy is non-negotiable and is an essential component of exercising bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom.

Simply put, patients’ basic health information should be private. You should not fear that your personal health care data could be used against you. H 8318 will ensure that patients that rely on testosterone hormone therapy, and their health care providers, are no longer subject to unnecessary surveillance and invasive state reporting of sensitive personal health data by explicitly exempting testosterone from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) reporting and to purge prior PDMP records related to the prescription of testosterone

PDMPs were created to curb opioid misuse and diversion, not to surveil routine hormone therapy. PDMPs have grown into unchecked surveillance tools that continuously collect, monitor, and share sensitive health data about people on testosterone, often without their knowledge and across state lines. Testosterone has been used safely for decades to treat hypogonadism, menopause, cancer-related hormone suppression, and other conditions— there is no evidence to suggest that it is susceptible to the same kind of misuse and diversion PDMPs were intended to target.

When low-risk medications—like testosterone—are treated like high-risk drugs, PDMPs become inefficient and needlessly subject patients and their health care providers to privacy concerns. A recent study published in JAMA, found that testosterone prescription data in PDMPs was readily accessible to law enforcement without basic safeguards (e.g., requiring a warrant or subpoena) in nearly half of all states.ⁱ

In a post-*Dobbs* landscape, strengthening privacy and confidentiality protections for reproductive health and gender-affirming health care is urgent. PDMPs contain a trove of sensitive data that could be abused by hostile state and federal actors who want to target individuals and their health care providers. The threats posed by PDMPs are real as evidence suggests that PDMP data may have already been used by Texas Attorney General Ken

Paxton to bring enforcement actions against gender-affirming care providers.[¶] While the Department of Justice has made clear it is aggressively targeting gender-affirming care providers, including through burdensome investigations, subpoenas for sensitive patient records, and multi-agency enforcement coordination.

Planned Parenthood will not stop fighting to ensure our patients, and our communities have what they need to live healthy and self-determined lives. With the current hostile political landscape for reproductive and gender-affirming health care, our state must do everything we can to stand for the fundamental right for people to be able to make decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures. Rhode Island has been a leader in protecting patients of reproductive and gender-affirming care and the health care providers that serve them. No patient should ever have to fear that their private health information will be used against them by the government and that is why we urge the committee and legislature to vote in support for H 8318. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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[†] McCreedy K, von der Heydt J, Chauhan A, et al. State Policies Regulating Law Enforcement Access to Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Testosterone Prescription Data. JAMA. 2024;332(20):1754–1757. doi:10.1001/jama.2024.20035

[¶] <https://www.erininthemorning.com/p/ken-paxton-can-access-your-prescription>