

Dear Committee Chair Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Michelle Steever. I am a resident of Cranston, and I am writing to you today as a Rhode Island resident to express my strong support for H7940, the Health Insurance Nondiscrimination Bill.

Access to healthcare is a fundamental right, yet many Rhode Islanders still face barriers due to outdated protections. This bill is a critical step forward because it:

- Holds providers accountable: It ensures that health insurance providers are held responsible for discriminatory practices.
- Modernizes our laws: It updates Rhode Island's protections to reflect the current needs of our community.
- Protects against federal rollbacks: As healthcare protections face challenges at the federal level, it is vital that Rhode Island solidifies these rights at the state level.

I respectfully ask the Committee to support this legislation to ensure all Rhode Islanders can seek healthcare without fear of discrimination. Thank you for your time and your commitment to the health of our state.

Sincerely,

Michelle Steever
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