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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON 26-S 2889, RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS – UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT April 7, 2026

The ACLU of Rhode Island supports this legislation which would exempt testosterone prescriptions from being transmitted or reported within the Department of Health's prescription drug monitoring database (PDMP) and would remove from the database all existing information concerning prior testosterone prescriptions.

The PDMP was originally established to address the misuse of controlled substances by tracking prescriptions issued under specific provisions of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, in an attempt to prevent illicit prescription drug use. Testosterone is currently classified as a Schedule III controlled substance, one of the lesser schedules, apparently due to concerns surrounding its potential misuse.

However, what this classification currently fails to take into account is the use of testosterone for gender-affirming care and the attacks on that care being mounted relentlessly at the federal level. For transgender individuals, safe access to gender-affirming care is medically necessary and an essential component of healthcare, but it is potentially placed at risk by its current classification and by its inclusion in the PDMP.

In short, this legislation is necessary given the current presidential administration's continued attacks on transgender individuals. Requiring testosterone prescriptions to be reported in the PDMP creates unnecessary privacy risks for patients seeking gender-affirming care. This legislation would help safeguard this sensitive information, to ensure that a person's gender-affirming care choices are not misused or weaponized against them.

Thank you for considering our views.