



The Rhode Island State
Council of Churches

Social Justice Legislative Campaign

PART 1: COMMUNICATIONS

Faith-Based
Witness
Communications

EMAIL

LETTER

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

IN-PERSON TESTIMONY

Send an
email to:

Your Senator

President of
the Senate

Send an
email to:

Your
Representative

Speaker of the
House

When to
send an
email:

The Rhode Island General
Assembly is in session
each year from January
till June.

When to
send an
email:

When bill is filed.
(January/February)

When a bill is heard in
committee.

In May or June, if bill is
not called to the floor.

Format

For the Senate Bill

Subject line should read:

“In favor of Bill S 2129.”

Body of the e-mail should be two or three sentences.

If you have a relationship with the legislator, it could be longer.

Format

For the House Bill

Subject line should read:

“In favor of bill H 7357”

Body of the e-mail should be two or three sentences.

If you have a relationship with the legislator, it could be longer.

Sample Email

Subject: In favor of S 2129

Dear Senator (Your Senator),

I am a [your town] resident and a constituent. I am writing in favor of the “Health Care Data Privacy Act” (S 2129). All people, no matter where they live, should be able to make personal health care decisions and access care with privacy safety and security. This legislation is an important step to protect sensitive personal healthcare information. I encourage passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

Email to your Representative when your Representative is a co-sponsor of bill S2083

Subject: In favor of H 7357

Dear Representative (Your Representative),

Thank you for co-sponsoring the “Reproductive Health and Gender Affirming Healthcare Data Privacy Act.”

I am a [your town] resident and a constituent. I am writing in favor of the “Health Care Data Privacy Act” (H 7357)). All people, no matter where they live, should be able to make personal health care decisions and access care with privacy safety and security. This legislation is an important step to protect sensitive personal healthcare information. I encourage passage of this bill.

Respectfully,



Bill Sponsors
and Text



Representatives sponsoring H 7357, “Health Care Data Privacy Act.”

The bill sponsors along with the bill text can be found on the RI Legislature's website:

<https://status.rilegislature.gov/>



Communication
to
Representatives



**Representatives sponsoring H 7357,
“Health Care Data Privacy Act.”**


Representatives: Knight, Boylan,
McEntee, Speakman, Donovan, Carson,
Diaz, Cortvriend, Spears, Kazarian

If your Representative, is a bill sponsor,
thank them.

If they are not a bill sponsor, encourage
them to support and pass the bill.



Communication
to
Senators



**Senators sponsoring S 2129,
“Reproductive Freedom and Gender
Affirming Care Health Data Privacy” bill**

Senators LaMoutain, Murray, Gu, Burke,
McKenney, Britto, Urso, Acosta, Bissaillon,
and Vargas

If your senator is a bill sponsor, thank
them.

If your senator is not a bill sponsor,
encourage them to support and pass the
bill.

Letter Writing Format

If you can, use Congregational Stationery

Put in Subject line: Re: Passage of S 2129

Body:

Introduction (who you are).

Three or four sentences with a moral/religious argument.

Or

Three or four sentences with a personal story.

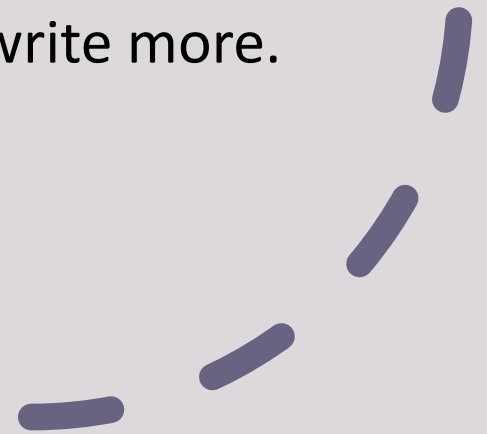
Or

If your legislator knows you, you could write more.

Ask Legislator to support the bill.

Your name

Title



Letter of Support

In an attempt to demonstrate how easy this could be, I asked ChatGPT to generate a letter. I only added the bill number.

Sample Letter 1:

(AI generated)

Dear Senator,

I am writing to urge your support for the **Reproductive Freedom and Gender-Affirming Care Health Data Privacy Act (S 2129)**.

Health care depends on trust. Patients must feel confident that deeply personal medical information—particularly related to reproductive and gender-affirming care—will remain private and protected. When individuals fear that their health data could be disclosed or misused, they may delay or avoid care, putting their health and well-being at risk.

In these areas of care, inadequate data privacy carries especially serious consequences. Medical records can expose patients, families, and clinicians to stigma, discrimination, or legal and social harm. Decisions that belong within the patient-provider relationship become vulnerable to outside scrutiny when privacy protections are weak, undermining personal autonomy and sound medical judgment.

Strong health data privacy safeguards are not about politics; they are about dignity, safety, and the freedom to seek lawful medical care without fear. I encourage you to support this legislation and help ensure that personal health information cannot be weaponized against those seeking care.

Thank you for your service and for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Committee Hearing

Bills are first sent to Committee for a hearing.

The Website RIlegislature.gov has a great deal of information including who is on the Committee.

S 2129 & H 7357 will be heard in the Judiciary Committees of each Chamber.

Committee Hearing Intel

Chair, and Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee are Sponsors of bill H 7357.

Chair, and Vice-Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee are Sponsors of the bill S 2129.

Written Testimony

Written testimony may be submitted to the Committee holding the hearing. It should be submitted the Clerk of the Committee ahead of the time of the hearing or hand delivered at the time of the Committee hearing.

Instruction on submission is listed on the Committee agenda that is posted on the RI legislature website [Rilegislature.gov](https://www.rilegislature.gov) The website has a great deal of information including who is on the Committee, a copy of the bill, and the bill sponsors.

In Person Testimony

At the hearing, bill sponsors are invited to speak first.

General officers are next if they are co-sponsoring the bill. Officers include the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and Treasurer.

Sometimes experts in the field are invited to testify.

General public speakers are next and are typically limited to two or three minutes. The limit is often strictly held. A speaker can be cut off by the Chair.

In Person Testimony Process

There are sign in sheets available before the hearing begins.

After your testimony is completed, Senators and Representatives may ask you questions.

Senate rules allow Senators to make a comment instead of asking a question. You cannot reply, unless the Chair allows it.

Committee Hearing

All bills that are heard are held for further study.

Committee members do not vote on the bill on the day of the hearing.

In-person Special Events

Rally – Press Event

RISCC Lobby Day

In-person chat on House/Senate Floor

Constituent Meeting

Rally & Press Event

Special Events are often held in conjunction with other groups who share our interest.

Showing up at the State House for a Rally or Press Event is an easy way to demonstrate support.

How do I find
my State
Senator and
Representative?

Go to Secretary of State's
Website: <https://www.sos.ri.gov>

Click on **Elections and voting**

Click on **Find your local officials**

Click on **Fill in your residence information**

Step 1: Enter your residence zip code.

Step 2: Select your city/town from the
dropdown list.

Step 3: Enter your street number.

Step 4: Name of your street.

Your Public Officials will be displayed.

How do I
find a copy
of a bill?

Go to RI State Legislature Website:
<https://www.rilegislature.gov>

Click on **Bills and Laws** (Top of Page)
Click on **Bill Status/History** (This will
also give you information about
where the bill is in the legislative
process.)

Click on **Bill Text**

Thank you!

For more information, please visit the
Council of Churches Website:

<https://www.councilofchurchesri.org>

For questions about the Data Privacy
Bill, please email:

Rev. Eugene Dyszlewski

socialjustice@councilofchurchesri.org