



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR CINDY F. FRIEDMAN  
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*Chair*  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE FINANCING

*Chair*  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON STEERING AND POLICY

June 3, 2025

Senator Lydia Edwards  
Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
24 Beacon St. Room 413-A  
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Michael S. Day  
Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
24 Beacon St. Room 136  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs Edwards and Day,

I write in support of a bill I filed that is before your committee, S.2522, *An Act strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth*.

Reproductive and gender-affirming care is under attack. The Trump Administration has sought to freeze millions in funding for sexual and reproductive care. Congress' proposed reconciliation bill would prohibit using federal Medicaid dollars for gender-affirming care. Red states are seeking to punish out-of-state abortion providers – Texas and Louisiana have brought a New York doctor to court for providing medication abortions in those states. And the U.S. Supreme Court is considering yet another case, *Medina v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic*, that would limit access to abortion, this time for those who use Medicaid.

In the summer of 2022, in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to ignore 50 years of judicial precedent and overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Massachusetts signed a law that requires that the Commonwealth do everything within its legal authority to protect our health care providers and patients, enhance access to abortion care, and ensure that these care decisions are made by a patient

and their health care provider.<sup>1</sup> With reproductive and gender-affirming health care once again under attack, it is time to build on the work we did in 2022 – S.2522 would do so in several ways.

First, the bill protects those who provide or seek gender-affirming care from investigations by the federal government or other states. The bill does so by limiting the information that businesses, such as insurers, those that manage electronic health records, and others can share, especially in response to such investigations. The bill places similar information-sharing limitations on, or strengthens existing limitations for, all state agencies, civil service employees, and law enforcement officers.

Second, the bill creates a state-level Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) to ensure that those who need an abortion in an emergency can get one. EMTALA is a federal law that requires hospitals to stabilize patients who are experiencing a medical emergency. However, that law is not clear as to whether it requires hospitals to provide an abortion if one is needed to stabilize a patient. The Biden Administration clarified that EMTALA does require hospitals to provide abortions in these circumstances, but the Trump Administration rolled back that policy. The state EMTALA this bill creates therefore requires hospitals to stabilize patients, including by providing an abortion if necessary.

Third, the bill strengthens the ways in which the Commonwealth protects the personal information of those who provide or receive reproductive or gender-affirming care. For example, the bill clarifies that the public cannot use public records requests to obtain such information. The bill also allows providers to request that a pharmacy print their practice's name, instead of their own name, on the label of a medication that they prescribe for reproductive or gender-affirming care.

Fourth, the bill enhances license protections for those who provide this care. The 2022 law prohibited taking disciplinary action against the licenses of health care professionals for providing reproductive or gender-affirming care. However, the way in which the law was written meant that it did not cover professionals for whom we created a licensing pathway *after* the law went into effect, such as certified professional midwives. This bill would extend the protections in the 2022 law to certified professional midwives and any future provider for whom we create a licensing pathway. The bill also extends similar license protections to attorneys.

Fifth, the bill protects the institutions that provide this reproductive or gender-affirming care. The bill does so by prohibiting insurance companies from discriminating against non-profits, such as by charging them higher premiums, because the institution provides reproductive or gender-affirming care or is the subject of abusive litigation relating to that care.

Lastly, the bill establishes protections for those in court. For example, some states prohibit gender-affirming care for minors. Other states go further – Texas tried classifying such care as child abuse. If a court in such a state finds a parent mistreated a child because they provided the child with gender-affirming care, the bill would prohibit Massachusetts courts from using that out-of-state court's finding to alter a parent's custody, time, or visitation rights, or to rule that a parent abused

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<sup>1</sup> *An Act Expanding Protections for Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Care.*  
<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2022/Chapter127>.

their child. Providing gender-affirming care to minors is not child abuse, and parents should be applauded, not punished, for ensuring their children have access to care.

I am saddened and frustrated that reproductive rights are once again under attack. However, I am proud to live in a state that is willing and able to protect those rights, and even prouder to be able to sponsor and speak in favor of a bill that would accomplish that goal.

I therefore respectfully request the committee report S.2522 favorably at its earliest convenience – there is simply no time to wait based on the swift and unpredictable actions of the Trump Administration. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia F. Friedman". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Cynthia" being the most prominent, followed by "F." and "Friedman". A long, horizontal flourish extends from the end of the signature.

Cindy F. Friedman