

Jerome Larkin, MD, Director of Health
Rhode Island Department of Health
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April 16, 2026

Dear Dr. Larkin,

In light of the recent US Supreme Court Decision on March 21, 2026 in *Chiles v Salazar* that Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors violates the First Amendment, and finding that prohibiting licensed counselors from attempting to change a minor's sexual orientation or gender identity restricts free speech, it is clear that this ruling jeopardizes the similar ban promulgated in Rhode Island under Title 23 Chapter 94 Section 23-94-1-3, "Prevention of Conversion Therapy for Children".

Therefore, the *Law Centre at the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity* calls on the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) to respond to this letter with an unambiguous statement that RIDOH does not intend to enforce the provisions in Rhode Island Law that would restrict licensed counselors from discussing conversation therapies with minors.

Specifically, please confirm that RIDOH will abide by the Supreme Court ruling and that it does not intend to enforce Section 23-94-3(b) that would subject a licensed professional to discipline that may include suspension or revocation of the professional license for engaging in conversion therapy for minors. Continuing to allow the fear discipline under this law within the mental health counseling community will unlawfully restrict the freedom of speech and deny minors access to potential life-saving therapies offered by licensed counselors.

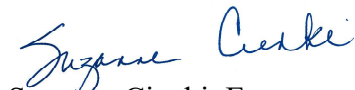
We therefore request that RIDOH respond to this letter or provide a public statement in acknowledgment of this letter, to the effect that the Rhode Island Department of Health will no longer enforce Sections 23-94-2,3 and recognizes that the US Supreme Court has declared these types of laws as unconstitutional and, therefore, unenforceable.

This Supreme Court ruling invalidates any moral, political, and emotional considerations in support of Rhode Island's law, making it a clear and straightforward legal matter.

Failure to respond or to provide the public with such written assurances that RIDOH will not enforce the provisions of this unconstitutional section of law will enable our Law Centre to initiate legal proceedings on behalf of several clients who may have suffered harm.

Thank you for your cooperation and adherence to the rule of law. RIDOH may respond via email to: lawcentre@rifreedom.org.

Very truly yours,



Suzanne Cienki, Esq.

Advisor to the Law Centre at the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity