

Dear Chair Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 7255 (Rep Alzate). This bill updates the existing Rhode Island state law mandating coverage of contraception enacted in 2000 in order to ensure access to all FDA-approved methods, limit insurer restrictions, and to ensure that the no-cost provision for over-the-counter contraception, and alternative therapies for those who need them, are more readily accessible.

I have a daughter who is 22. I do not want her to be limited in terms of her choices for birth control because of her health care coverage or lack thereof.

The no cost birth control benefit of the ACA has given patients the ability to select the right method of birth control for their lives, without weighing their medical options against the cost of care.

Before the ACA's birth control benefit went into effect, contraception accounted for 30% to 44% of women's out-of-pocket health care costs. We won't go back to an era where women paid more for health care simply because of their gender. Preventive reproductive care — including birth control — is basic health care.

I strongly support passing House Bill 7255 to safeguard this critical ACA health insurance benefit, no copay birth control, and protect it in our state law. Preventive reproductive care — including birth control — is basic health care and everyone needs access to the contraceptive method that is right for their life. This is not just a health issue, it's an economic issue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Lima
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