

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

H-7255 - FOR

Hearing May 15, 2024

RE: H-7255 - Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies -(No Cost Sharing for all FDA approved Prescription Contraceptive Drugs and Devices)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering my testimony.

I'm asking for your SUPPORT for H-7255.

Currently the federal Affordable Health Care Act provides no cost sharing for contraception. This has contributed to increased use of contraceptives, which in turn has prevented unintended pregnancies and contributed to improved health outcomes for women. Prior to the existence of the ACA out of pocket costs to women reduced the use of contraceptives.

The proposed bill is an expansion of an earlier bill enacted more than 20 years ago and would include coverage for all current FDA - approved methods of contraception. (This act would require every individual or group health insurance contract to include coverage to the insured and the insured's spouse and dependents for all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices and other products, voluntary sterilization procedures, patient education and counseling on contraception and follow-up services as well as Medicaid coverage for a twelve (12) month supply for Medicaid recipients.)

Nationally there have been efforts to dismantle the ACA. This bill would ensure Rhode Islanders will continue to have access to full coverage for contraception at no-cost.

Although speaking for myself, I am allied in sentiment with the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island and its partners in the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom in asking for to vote **for** this bill.

Thank you.



Mary Chace
7 Whipple Ave.
Riverside, RI 02915