



American Civil Liberties Union of RI
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Catholics for Choice
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
Hope and Change Partnership
Humanists of Rhode Island
League of Women Voters, RI
Medical Students for Choice
National Council of Jewish Women, RI Action Team
Perinatal Quality Collaborative
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Reproductive Health Access Project

Resolve New England
RI Academy of Family Physicians
RI Athiests
RI Black Business Association
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
RI National Association of Social Workers
RI National Organization for Women
RI Pharmacists Association
RI Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom
RI Working Families Party
Sojourner House
Upstream
Women's Fund of Rhode Island
Women's Health and Education Fund

To: Representative Marvin Abney, Chair of the House Committee on Finance
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

Date: May 15, 2024

Re: Support for House Bill 7255

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I write to express the support of the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (RICRF) for House Bill 7255, a bill to ensure that Rhode Islanders' health insurance covers the cost of their contraceptives. RICRF is a Coalition comprised of 27 organizations working together to share resources, build strategies and coordinate efforts to connect reproductive freedom with social and economic justice. We focus on advocacy and legislative action to enact change.

We urge this Committee to pass this legislation in order to retain contraception as a preventive care service not subject to patient cost-sharing. One clear positive result of the ACA has been increased access to the most effective types of contraception, including long-acting, reversible contraception (LARC). According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, over time LARC methods are 20 times more effective than birth control pills, the patch, or the ring. However, these options can be expensive. For example, prior to the ACA, placing an IUD could cost up to \$500, an amount that many found prohibitive due to the impact of high deductibles and other forms of cost-sharing.

Given the actions of the current Supreme Court and the persistent legal challenges to the ACA, we have no confidence that the current protections of the ACA will remain in place. We can protect Rhode Islanders by enacting this into law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "njellinek", written in a cursive style.

Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom