

Dear Chair Abney and distinguished members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Damian Lima, and I am writing on behalf of LGBTQ+ Action Rhode Island (LARI), an advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the rights, health, and well-being of LGBTQ+ people across our state.

We strongly support House Bill 5771 (Rep. Alzate), which would provide Medicaid coverage for fertility health care and help correct long-standing inequities in access to family-building services. As it stands, Rhode Island law unjustly limits access to fertility health care by both insurance type and an outdated definition of infertility, one that excludes many LGBTQ+ individuals, single people, and others who cannot conceive without medical assistance.

This exclusion is deeply harmful. LGBTQ+ families already face numerous legal and financial obstacles to building families, and denying Medicaid recipients access to fertility care deepens these disparities. Under current law, same-sex couples, transgender individuals, and single people covered by Medicaid are effectively shut out of fertility care altogether, simply because of who they are or the type of insurance they have.

Fertility care is not a luxury—it is essential health care. Just as heterosexual couples facing infertility should be supported in their efforts to conceive, so too should LGBTQ+ Rhode Islanders and those with limited incomes who rely on Medicaid. This bill recognizes that reproductive justice means ensuring *all* people, regardless of income, identity, or family structure, have the right and ability to decide whether, when, and how to have children.

LARI supports H 5771 because it aligns state policy with current medical standards and addresses an urgent gap in reproductive health equity. We urge the committee and legislature to pass this bill and affirm that every Rhode Islander deserves access to the care they need to build their family.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
LGBTQ+ Action Rhode Island (LARI)