



TWP Testimony in Support of House Bill 5771

Dear Chair Abney and members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Jocelyn Foye, the executive director of The Womxn Project and an artist, mom, and voter. At The Womxn Project, we advocate for access to healthcare for everyone in RI. Our work rests upon our firm belief in and commitment to bodily freedom. That is why we are supporting this legislation and urging you all to support H-5771.

Currently coverage is only required for a small group of individuals who fall under an antiquated definition of 'infertility.' This must be rectified and reflect the current clinical standards. Then that fertility care needs to be a required benefit under both private and public insurers. Rhode Islanders in Medicare do not have fertility care covered. This ongoing exclusion of those in more marginal economic situations from benefits available to many others is unfair and unnecessary. Rhode islanders are a welcoming, diverse and generous people. We require our government to reflect those values.

The Womxn Project was instrumental in the passage of the EACA, expanding reproductive healthcare and abortion access to Medicaid members. We see this legislation in the same light. Expand covered services to all those in need. Give more Rhode Islanders support and access to the best fertility and reproductive healthcare whether they are choosing to grow their family or limit it. The Womxn Project strongly supports the rights of all to choose their reproductive futures and enabling those futures through insurance coverage, until we have a better system. Such legislation increases bodily freedom for all of us here in RI.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Foye, *Executive Director*

The Womxn Project

401-400-0061

PO Box 335

Wakefield, RI 02880