

ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

**TESTIMONY ON 25-H 5771,
AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – THE RHODE
ISLAND MEDICAID REFORM ACT OF 2008**

April 30, 2025

The ACLU of Rhode Island strongly supports this legislation which would mandate Medicaid coverage for fertility diagnostic care, standard fertility preservation services, and fertility treatment, and would require coverage for any medically necessary ovulation-enhancing drugs and medical services.

Current Rhode Island law is exclusive to private insurance, by requiring private insurance providers to cover fertility healthcare only for people who meet a very limited definition of “infertility” that does not cover all needs. As a result, people who qualify for Medicaid in Rhode Island, single individuals, and LGBTQ+ families are often excluded from coverage for infertility treatments. This bill would correct that by improving access to fertility healthcare for people who use Medicaid as their insurance, promoting equitable access to care for all individuals.

Paying out-of-pocket for fertility healthcare is not possible for most people. As the law currently stands, Medicaid in Rhode Island does not cover fertility healthcare. About 9% of men and about 12.1% of women of reproductive age in the United States have experienced fertility problems.¹ Additionally, Black women are almost twice as likely as white women to suffer from infertility, and about half as likely as white women to have access to fertility healthcare.²

This is an important reproductive justice issue. Every person should have access to the care they need to make informed decisions about when, how, and whether to have children and build their families. This legislation is a step towards recognizing the diverse ways in which families are created and supporting all Rhode Islanders in their reproductive health decisions. By providing this broad, inclusive coverage, Rhode Island can address a longstanding and significant gap in reproductive healthcare, ensuring that all residents, regardless of their economic status, receive the care they need.

Thank you for considering our views.

¹ 12.1% of women in the United States is about 7.4 million women. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Key statistics from the National Survey of Family Growth. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/key_statistics/i.htm#infertilityservices.

² Id.