

Testimony in Support of H 6047
Submitted to the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, April 30

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

My name is Payton Wozny, and I am from Wakefield. I am a student at the University of Rhode Island and a member of the new student-led organization, Planned Parenthood Advocacy Club.

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 6047 (Rep. Alzate), which updates Rhode Island's contraception coverage law to strengthen access to no-copay birth control. This bill ensures that all FDA-approved contraceptive methods — including over-the-counter options and alternative therapies for those who need them — are covered without cost-sharing or unnecessary insurance barriers.

Access to affordable contraception has made an incredible difference in my life, ensuring I have been able to choose the right medication for me. I have struggled with the high cost of prescription medications to deal with conditions like asthma, acne, and depression. Those high costs forced me to try alternative medications that could not provide the results I needed and added stress to already stressful circumstances. I cannot imagine having to deal with similar circumstances to access contraceptive options. No one should have to decide between the right medication for their body versus the affordable medication for their wallet.

Before the Affordable Care Act (ACA), contraception could account for up to 44% of women's out-of-pocket health care costs. Thanks to the ACA's no-copay contraceptive benefit, millions of people have gained the freedom to select the right birth control method without financial barriers. However, ongoing legal attacks and gaps in older state laws put this progress at risk. H 6047 is crucial to protect and expand these rights.

Contraceptive access is not just a health issue—it is also an issue of economic security and gender equity. Birth control enables people to plan their families, complete their education, and participate more fully in the workforce. It is essential preventive health care.

I urge you to vote favorably for H 6047 to protect the right to affordable birth control in Rhode Island. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Payton Wozny
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