



Mayor of Providence

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Brett P. Smiley

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence RI, 02903

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I strongly support both House Bill 7323, *An Act Relating to Insurance – Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies* and House Bill 8182 *An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – The Rhode Island Medicaid Reform Act of 2008*. Together, these bills strengthen access to reproductive health care and address gaps in coverage that have real consequences for Rhode Islanders.


House Bill 7323 would require individual or group health insurance contracts to provide coverage for all US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved contraceptive drugs and other products to the insured individual and their spouse and dependents. Comprehensive access to FDA-approved contraception is an evidence-based approach to improving health outcomes, reducing unintended pregnancies, and allowing individuals and families to have greater control over their family planning decisions.

House Bill 8182 would require Medicaid to provide coverage for fertility medication, care, and services, for at least 3 cycles of fertility treatment, and intrauterine insemination. Fertility treatments are out of reach for many Rhode Islanders due to the costs associated with the process. This legislation would expand access to fertility treatment and ensure that individuals and families can make family planning decisions without being constrained by income.

The kind of comprehensive coverage proposed by these bills aligns with the State's broader public health goals and ensures that Rhode Islanders have access to the care they need.

I thank Representative Alzate for sponsoring these important pieces of legislation and respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of House Bills 7323 and 8182.

Sincerely,

  
Brett P. Smiley  
Mayor