

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

My name is Kalin Gregory-Davis, I am from Providence and I am an OBGYN resident with the Brown-Women and Infants OBGYN Residency Program.

I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 8182 (Rep. Alzate). This bill will improve access to fertility care for people who have Medicaid as their insurance, who have historically been excluded from accessing fertility care due to a lack of coverage for treatment. This bill is crafted to ensure that coverage for family building health care aligns with the current medical standard of care as provided by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. This bill is an important step in improving coverage in our Medicaid program for this essential care.

As an OBGYN, I have had numerous patients who have been dealing with infertility for years and have not been able to access reproductive assistance. This is heartbreaking as they want to create a family and due to circumstances beyond their control, this is not within their financial means to do so. This stands in stark contrast to my patients who have a diagnosis of infertility but are privately insured. This inequity feels deeply unfair and unjust and I urge us to expand access for all patients trying to make a family.

I support H 8182 because access to family-building health care is essential health care for so many people in our state. This is an urgent reproductive and economic justice issue because all people have the right to have children regardless of who they are or how much they earn. With a hostile political landscape for reproductive health, our state must do everything we can to stand for the fundamental right for people to be able to decide whether, when, and how to have children. I urge the committee and legislature to vote favorably for H 8182 to improve fertility health care coverage so more Rhode Island residents have access to the essential medical care they need to build their families no matter how they are insured.

Dr. Gregory-Davis, OBGYN

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