



American Civil Liberties Union of RI
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
Catholics for Choice
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
Hope and Change Partnership
Humanists of Rhode Island
League of Women Voters, RI
Medical Students for Choice
National Council of Jewish Women, RI Action Team
Perinatal Quality Collaborative
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Reproductive Health Access Project
Resolve New England

RI Abortion Fund
RI Academy of Family Physicians
RI Atheists
RI Black Business Association
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
RI National Association of Social Workers
RI National Organization for Women
RI Pharmacists Association
RI Psychiatric Society
RI Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom
RI State Council of Churches
RI Working Families Party
Sojourner House
Upstream
Women's Fund of Rhode Island

To: Representative Marvin Abney, Chair of the House Committee on Finance; Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

Date: May 5, 2026

Re: Support for House Bill 8182 RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAID REFORM ACT OF 2008

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom in support of House Bill 8182. Our Coalition, made up of 29 member organizations, works together to share resources, build strategies and coordinate efforts to connect reproductive freedom with social and economic justice. We recognize real inequalities in our state and we envision a RI where everyone has access to affordable and comprehensive reproductive health care. This current bill seeks to address a fundamental inequality regarding fertility healthcare.

I know quite a few people—as I'm sure you do as well—who have struggled to build their desperately wanted family. Current RI law doesn't require public insurance to cover any fertility treatments, which diminishes financial accessibility of these treatments for Medicaid recipients. Not only does this impact family planning, but it specifically limits medical treatment available to patients such as pediatric cancer patients who may not be able to save their sperm or eggs due to this preclusion; adult patients who have conditions that impact ovulation such as polycystic ovary syndrome; or patients who have had treatment with chemotherapy or other medications that impact ovarian function.

This legislation importantly will ensure that Rhode Islanders on Medicaid receive the medical standard of care for fertility treatment, including reflecting the actual population seeking to create a family via fertility treatment, including single people and LGBTQ+ families, who are excluded from our current statute concerning the coverage of fertility treatments for private insurance. The number of people who have experienced fertility issues is high: about 9% of men and 11% of women (and Black women are nearly twice as likely to experience infertility).

Paying out of pocket is not an option for most people--nor should it be since the restrictions on who has access to fertility treatment is arbitrary.

Our Coalition believes that every single individual should have access to the care they need in order to build their family—how and when they want to. This is the true expression of the freedom we promote. I ask that you vote for ALL Rhode Islanders and pass H 8182.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole", with a long, sweeping underline.

Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom