



Dear Chair Donovan, Vice Chair Giraldo, Vice Chair Potter, and members of Health and Human Services Committee,

Resolve New England (RNE) is an independent non-profit organization that provides psychosocial support, education, and advocacy for ALL those struggling with fertility or family building. We proudly and collaboratively advocate in all six states in our region. RNE supports the goals of H.7877 and H.7878. We appreciate that the legislation aims to expand access to fertility care and to genetic testing for people who seek to grow the families of their dreams. However, RNE seeks amendments to ensure the legislation reflects current standards of care and will achieve these goals.

Fighting for improved access to fertility and family building has always been a core part of our mission, but this work has never felt more important than it is now. The national context seems to become more threatening to reproductive health care, including but not limited to fertility treatment, with each passing day. The unprecedented and shocking Alabama Supreme Court decision last month demonstrated that these threats extend beyond abortion and risk access to the fertility health care that is so dearly needed to build much-wanted families. Given this, we urge Rhode Island to improve and protect access to fertility care.

Rhode Island's current fertility insurance law requires coverage for "medically necessary expenses of diagnosis and treatment of infertility for women between the ages of twenty-five and forty-two years", which is outdated and insufficient. This should not reference women only, and the age language is unlawful under the Affordable Care Act. In addition, the term preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) in H.7878 should be replaced with the term preimplantation genetic testing (PGT), as in H.7877, as PGT is the more accurate terminology. Finally, we suggest that this proposed legislation should align with the updated, more inclusive definition of infertility that the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the leading medical organization in our field, released in October 2023. This definition includes LGBTQ and single individuals who need medical care to build their families.

Advancing this amended legislation could be an important step forward to ensure that the Ocean State provides fair access to fertility health care and continues your history of leadership in reproductive health care. Thank you for your consideration, and we stand ready to help any way that we can.

Sincerely,

Kate Weldon LeBlanc
Executive Director