

Dear Chair Donovan and distinguished members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Alexandra Lee. I am from East Greenwich, RI. I am a second year student at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 5629 (Rep. Alzate). This bill will improve access to family building health care by aligning fertility health care insurance coverage with the medical standard of care, which clearly includes LGBTQ+ and single people, among others, so more Rhode Island residents have the opportunity to build their family. Fertility health care is essential for building families.

As a driven young woman pursuing a career in medicine, I have dedicated myself to becoming the best physician I can be—an incredibly rewarding journey. However, during our Reproductive unit, I was struck by a staggering statistic: 1 in 4 female physicians struggle with fertility (Academy of Emergency Medicine Journal). The pursuit of a career in medicine comes at a high personal cost, and the lack of comprehensive fertility coverage disproportionately impacts medical professionals. By the time I complete my training, I will have spent my prime reproductive years in medical school and residency—periods of financial strain when affording fertility treatments like IVF would be nearly impossible.

I grew up in Rhode Island and have loved the opportunity to study medicine in the state I call home. I dream of staying here, building a career, and raising a family. Yet, without fertility coverage, that dream feels increasingly out of reach. This law will support young physicians who are committed to living and practicing in Rhode Island, allowing them to care for their communities without sacrificing their ability to build a family. By ensuring insurance coverage for fertility treatments, it provides a crucial safeguard, empowering physicians to make family-planning decisions when the time is right.

This is just one example of how this bill would make a meaningful impact. Access to family-building healthcare is not just a concern for physicians—it is a fundamental issue that affects individuals and families across all professions and backgrounds. The ability to seek fertility treatments should not be a privilege limited to those who can afford it out-of-pocket; it should be a right supported by comprehensive healthcare coverage. By passing this bill, we ensure that all individuals, regardless of their career path or financial situation, have the opportunity to build the family they dream of when the time is right for them.

I urge the committee and legislature to vote favorably for H 5629 to improve fertility health care coverage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alexandra Lee
East Greenwich, RI