



Call Off Your Old
Tired Ethics



March 10th, 2025

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

My name is Bella Robinso. I reside in West Warwick RI. I am the executive director of Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics Rhode Island (COYOTE RI). Our organization advocates for policies that promote the health and safety of sex workers and trafficking survivors. Only 37% of this population are heterosexual. .

We are 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.

"Rhode Island's current fertility coverage law is fundamentally discriminatory. It restricts access to essential healthcare based on outdated definitions of infertility, effectively excluding single individuals and LGBTQ+ families. This disparity creates a significant financial barrier, as fertility treatments like IVF, costing thousands of dollars, become inaccessible for many. This inequity disproportionately impacts LGBTQ+ individuals and communities of color, particularly Black women who face higher rates of infertility and lower rates of treatment access. True reproductive justice demands that everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, marital status, or race, has the right to build their family. Rhode Island has the opportunity to rectify this injustice and ensure equitable access to fertility care."

"The high cost of fertility treatments, like IVF, creates an insurmountable barrier for many Rhode Islanders. Current state law, which limits insurance coverage to a narrow definition of infertility, exacerbates this problem. This exclusion disproportionately impacts single individuals, LGBTQ+ families, and communities of color, leaving them without the means to access essential healthcare. With treatment costs ranging from thousands to tens of thousands of dollars, out-of-pocket expenses are simply not feasible for most. This lack of access undermines reproductive rights and the fundamental ability to build a family. Rhode Island must expand insurance coverage to ensure that financial constraints do not dictate who can access fertility care."

"Access to fertility care is a critical component of reproductive rights, yet Rhode Island's current law restricts this access based on outdated and discriminatory definitions of infertility. This limitation echoes the broader attacks on reproductive freedom, as seen in the Alabama Supreme Court's IVF ruling, which underscores the dangers of 'personhood' laws. These restrictions disproportionately affect LGBTQ+ families and individuals, who already face numerous challenges to their healthcare and autonomy. Despite federal gestures, such as President Trump's executive order, real change requires state-level action. Rhode Island has the chance to strengthen its laws and protect the right of all individuals to make informed decisions

about their reproductive health and family building."

We support H 5629 because access to family-building health care such as IVF 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 the current 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 5629 to improve fertility health care coverage and update our state law, which is outdated and doesn't reflect the standard of health care, so more Rhode Island residents have access to the essential medical care they need to build their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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