

March 13, 2025

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

My name is Camille Williams and I live and work in Providence. I am a Certified Nurse-Midwife providing reproductive health care to Rhode Islanders, for both Providence Community Health Centers and Brown Health Ob-Gyn.

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.

Current RI law clearly discriminates against LGBTQ people who wish to have children. LGBTQ patients who are struggling with infertility are part of my patient population. Countless times, I have had to look them in the eye and tell them that sadly, affordable infertility care that is available to my heterosexual patients is not accessible to them.

I 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legislature to vote favorably for H 5629 to improve fertility health care coverage and update our state law, which is outdated and doesn't reflect the standard of health care, so more Rhode Island residents have access to the essential medical care they need to build their families.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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