

March 13, 2025

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

My name is Dr. Chelsea Graham; I am from Providence. I am a family physician at Thundermist Health Center and I have been in Rhode Island for a decade.

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 family physician, this bill is important to my patients and my friends. Many of the people I take care of have state insurance. They cannot afford fertility treatment. This excludes many LGBT families from having children. My friends have also had a difficult time navigating fertility treatment, even those are who physicians. This bill would not only expand coverage, but it would expand the definition of infertility so more citizens can have access to this care.

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. I am often the first person that people come to when they have issues with reproduction. I lean on my colleagues in Rhode Island for patients and friends to have better access to fertility treatment. 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legislature to vote favorably for H 5629 to improve fertility health care coverage and update our state law, which is outdated and doesn't reflect the standard of health care, so more Rhode Island residents have access to the essential medical care they need to build their families.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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