

**March 13, 2025 - hearing for H5629 – Health insurance coverage for infertility related care.**

**League of Women Voters of RI - H-5629 - FOR**

The Honorable Susan Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island is testifying in support of H-5629.

This law would update current law to make sure that all residents of Rhode Island will have the same assurance of medical coverage for fertility costs that are available for other medical treatments. This language would further define who could not be excluded. ("Coverage for the treatment under this section must be provided without discrimination on the basis of ancestry, disability, domestic partner status, gender expression, gender identification, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.")

Our understanding is that current RI law requires private insurance providers to cover fertility health care for people who meet a limited definition of "infertility" that is defined in reference to heterosexual intercourse. That would exclude many people in Rhode Island who identify differently ex. The LGBTQ+ families.

This bill would also make coverage more accessible to those who would be challenged to afford the costs of fertility treatments. The black community for example has a higher rate of infertility than the white community according to the National Survey of Family Growth, cited by authors of "Infertility and Impaired Fecundity in the United States."

Fertility access is a reproductive health issue. It is also an economic justice issue. Additionally, the League of Women Voters of the US considers reproductive rights a democracy and human rights issue.

The League respectfully asks that you vote for H-5629 to extend justice to all Rhode Islanders. Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Chace, Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the League of Women Voters of RI  
One Richmond Square, Suite 200 A-W, Providence RI 02906, 401.895.7257