

Steven Sepe

From: Nicole Moody <nmoody2@tulane.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 1:29 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Testimony in support of H 5629

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

I write to you today in **STRONG** support of expanded fertility health care coverage, 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. Currently, Rhode Island law requires private insurance providers to cover infertility, but the definition of infertility is defined specifically in reference to heterosexual intercourse. Given this narrow definition, my own LGBTQ+ family has been repeatedly excluded from coverage.

As a Rhode Islander trying to build my own family, I have invested a significant amount of time, energy, and money into self-advocating for infertility coverage for myself and my spouse. During this already emotional and stressful period, it has been an excessive burden to fight multiple insurance companies for coverage that others in our situation have been able to receive seamlessly.

If this law were in place, we would have been spared countless hours of phone calls with our health care providers, insurance companies, and health care advocates... time we spent in an effort to receive medically necessary health care coverage, that we have yet to receive. We have been repeatedly denied coverage because we are a same-sex couple, despite the fact that we have an infertility diagnosis from a doctor. **The loopholes that are present under current law have allowed two separate health care companies to deny our medically necessary coverage.** By passing this bill today, you can spare other Rhode Islanders from the emotional distress and financial burden my family has had to endure in this process.

I support H 5629 because access to family-building health care such as IUI and 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.

Sincerely,
Nicole Moody
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