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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON 25-H 5629, RELATING TO INSURANCE– ACCIDENTS AND INSURANCE POLICIES March 13, 2025

The ACLU of Rhode Island strongly supports this legislation, which would require insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of infertility, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Specifically, this bill removes outdated language that previously limited insurance coverage of fertility treatments to “women between the ages of twenty-five (25) and forty-two (42) years.”

Under current Rhode Island law, private insurance providers are only required to cover fertility healthcare for people who meet a limited, heteronormative definition of “infertility,” based solely on heterosexual intercourse. As a result, single individuals and LGBTQ+ families are often excluded from coverage of infertility treatments. This bill would correct that by requiring insurance providers to offer comprehensive coverage for infertility treatments and standard fertility services, promoting equitable access to care for all individuals.

This is an important reproductive justice issue. Every person should have access to the care they need, including fertility healthcare, to make informed decisions about when, how, and whether to have children and build their families. This legislation is a step towards recognizing the diverse ways in which families are created and supporting all Rhode Islanders in their reproductive health decisions. By providing this broad, inclusive coverage, Rhode Island can address a longstanding and significant gap in reproductive healthcare, ensuring that all residents, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, receive the care they need.

Thank you for considering our views.