



American Civil Liberties Union of RI
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Catholics for Choice
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
Hope and Change Partnership
Humanists of Rhode Island
League of Women Voters, RI
Medical Students for Choice
National Council of Jewish Women, RI Action Team
Perinatal Quality Collaborative
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Reproductive Health Access Project

Resolve New England
RI Abortion Fund
RI Academy of Family Physicians
RI Athiests
RI Black Business Association
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
RI National Association of Social Workers
RI National Organization for Women
RI Pharmacists Association
RI Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom
RI Working Families Party
Sojourner House
Upstream
Women's Fund of Rhode Island

To: Representative Susan Donovan, Chair of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

Date: March 12, 2025

Re: Support for House Bill 6038 RELATING TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS – PHARMACIES

Dear Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

On behalf of the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, I extend our gratitude for your work in 2023 to pass Rep Vella Wilkinson's bill to give pharmacists authority to prescribe and receive payment for hormonal contraception services. As a group focused on ensuring that every Rhode Islander is able to make decisions about how and when (and whether) to have a family, we were excited about improving broader access to hormonal contraception. This current bill, H6038, builds upon the previous legislation and increases the possible time for the initial prescription from 3 months - 12 months.

The 2022 KFF Women's Health Survey found that more than one-third (36%) of reproductive-age females who use oral contraception have missed taking it on time because they were unable to get their next supply. We want to do all we can to reduce barriers to access. They also found that women who receive a 1-year supply of hormonal birth control have been found to be 30% less likely to have an unintended pregnancy, compared to women receiving a 1–3-month supply.

Now more than ever, as states around the nation restrict reproductive freedom, Rhode Island must be a beacon of hope and stand up for the reproductive access of all Rhode Islanders. This bill helps achieve that.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'nme', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom