



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: April 23, 2025

Re: Support for House Bill 5857 RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND GENDER AFFIRMING CARE HEALTH DATA PRIVACY ACT

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

I write to express the strong support of the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (RICRF) for House Bill 5857. RICRF is a Coalition comprised of 27 organizations working together to share resources, build strategies and coordinate efforts to connect reproductive freedom with social and economic justice. We focus on advocacy and legislative action to enact change. We envision a RI where everyone has access to affordable and comprehensive reproductive health care.

The Dobbs decision had the immediate effect of limiting many people's access to full reproductive healthcare; in RI, thankfully, we had adequate protections, and we thank many of you for your hard work to make that happen. Data privacy about reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare however, is of concern to Rhode Islanders, and we do not have adequate protection currently. This bill would address concerns about data that falls outside of HIPAA protections. On the national stage, data has been increasingly weaponized against patients, their loved ones, and our health care providers. We believe that privacy is non-negotiable, and is an essential component of exercising bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom.

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

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom