



League of Women Voters of Rhode Island
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March 1, 2021

The Honorable Joseph McNamara, Chair
House HEW Committee
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H-5370 - Confidentiality of Health Care Communications and Information Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The LWV supports policies and programs that promote the well-being and safety of all Americans.

It has come to our attention that individuals who are insured under another's insurance policy may suffer from a lack of confidentiality in their health care, in so far as the Explanation of Benefits sent to the policy holder may result in recrimination against the dependent.

For example, the insured may feel the need to keep private such sensitive treatments as behavioral health, HIV, STD, or reproductive issues, where knowledge by the policy holder might result in a threat to their safety.

The Guttmacher Institute reports that young adults and "other vulnerable populations have been deterred from care based on EOB concerns, and their health has been put at risk from privacy breaches..."

By strengthening access to confidential health care this bill would help improve the outcomes of those affected.

The League respectfully asks that you **support** this act.

Mary Chace, Volunteer Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Rhode Island