



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

March 6, 2023

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 5006 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Health Care for Children and Pregnant Women – Equality in Abortion Coverage

Dear Chairman Craven:

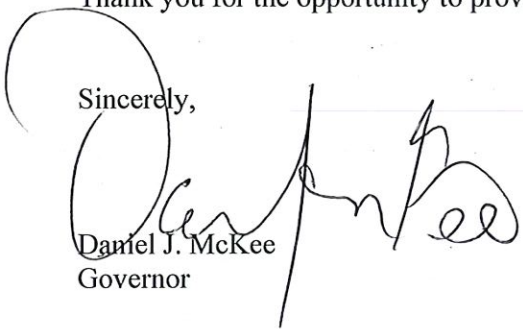
I write in support of House Bill 5006, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Health Care for Children and Pregnant Women – Equality in Abortion Coverage, which matches the proposal included in Article 11 of my Fiscal Year 2024 recommended budget. I thank House Whip Kazarian for her leadership on this issue.

Rhode Island is a state that protects a woman's right to reproductive health care, including abortions. This bill ensures that everyone in the state has equitable access to this right. Whether a person is receiving medical assistance through Medicaid or through a state employee health plan, that person should not be barred from accessing all aspects of reproductive health care. This bill removes this inequitable barrier and provides access to reproductive health care for Medicaid recipients and state employees.

Earlier this year, I joined the Reproductive Freedom Alliance, a coalition of twenty governors from across the nation, including the Governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut, to collaborate and strengthen reproductive freedom and equitable access to reproductive health care. House Bill 5006 and the proposal in my recommended budget align with the purpose of this Alliance by providing equitable access to reproductive healthcare for low-income women and state employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support this legislation, and I ask for the Committee's support.

Sincerely,


Daniel J. McKee
Governor

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Katherine S. Kazarian
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House