



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 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  
Women's Health and Education Fund

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To: Representative Robert Craven, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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

Date: April 7, 2025

Re: **Opposition to House Bills 5661, 5295, 5296**

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Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write to express the opposition of the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (RICRF) for three bills you are hearing today that work against reproductive freedom. 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.

House Bills 5661, 5295 and 5296 are regressive efforts to reduce access to existing reproductive health care services. They are the types of bills that are being passed in Alabama, Texas, Idaho and more than a dozen other states to repress bodily autonomy.

H5295 and 5296 are unnecessary and advances gross mischaracterizations that have no factual basis in medical science. The true aim of these bills is not based in science or in health care; instead, they are meant to shame and stigmatize doctors who provide abortions and patients who need access to essential, time sensitive, safe and legal abortion care. These so-called "Born Alive" bills suggest that the actions of physicians need to be legislated: in fact, medical guidelines and ethics already compel physicians to respond in these difficult situations.

H5661 is proposed as part of a larger movement to establish "personhood" for the fetus. The concept of wrongful death typically applies after a person has been born and does not apply to a fetus. Please act to defeat these efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'nme' with a long, sweeping underline.

Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom