



Gretchen Raffa

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Testimony in SUPPORT for House Bill 7110

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCT SAFETY AND TOXIC METAL

REMOVAL ACT OF 2026

House Committee on Health and Human Services

January 29, 2026

Chair Donovan and honorable members of the House Committee on Health Human Services Committee, my name is Gretchen Raffa, Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) testifying in support of House Bill 7110 (Rep. Alzate). PPSNE provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 10,000 Rhode Island patients last year and believes all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

Continued research demonstrates that environmental contaminants and exposure to chemicals can have a detrimental effect on one's reproductive health. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists states that reducing exposure to toxic environmental agents is a critical area of intervention for obstetricians, gynecologists, and other reproductive health care professionals. Toxic exposures related to reproductive and developmental health primarily have been associated with infertility and miscarriage, obstetric outcomes such as preterm birth and low birth weight, neurodevelopmental delay such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and adult and childhood cancer.¹

This bill establishes clear, enforceable limits on toxic metal content, requires independent testing and transparent public reporting, and gives the Department of Business Regulation the tools it needs to ensure compliance. Rhode Island has an obligation to continue to pass policies that protect and improve public health as well as decreasing exposure to harmful substances especially when safer alternatives exist.

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England believes everyone has the right to control their bodies, lives, and futures. We understand that right is linked to a person's environment, including their physical geography, race, class, access to health care to name a few, all which can play a debilitating role in a person's fertility. Many environmental factors harmful to reproductive health disproportionately affect vulnerable and underserved populations.² This is an important reproductive justice issue because all people should be guaranteed the right to plan their families; to become pregnant, have a healthy pregnancy, give birth to a healthy child, and raise your family in safe and healthy environments.

We urge the committee and legislature to vote in support for H 7110. Planned Parenthood will not stop fighting to ensure our patients, and our communities have what they need to live healthy and self-determined lives. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Reducing Prenatal Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists October 2021

<https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2021/07/reducing-prenatal-exposure-to-toxic-environmental-agents>

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