

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Susan Donovan, Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Via email to: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Re: House Bill 7951, relating to women’s reproductive health legislative commission

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (Blue Cross), I am writing in support of this proposal to establish a legislative commission to examine women’s reproductive health.

The proposed study commission is an appropriate and constructive vehicle for considering the range of complex, interconnected issues affecting women’s health, including maternal health outcomes, reproductive care, and access to supportive services. The commission structure allows for careful review of evolving care standards, patient experiences, health equity considerations, and the practical implications of potential policy changes.

We appreciate the bill’s attention to efforts to reduce disparities. Blue Cross, and Rhode Island, have been early leaders in recognizing the value of maternal support services, including legislative initiatives to expand access to doula care – over 800 members utilized doula services in 2025. Continued examination of how supportive services contribute to improved outcomes and patient experience is an important component of this work.

We also support the commission’s focus on inclusive approaches to reproductive and fertility care. Reviewing coverage frameworks through the lens of clinical need and medical guidelines can help inform future policy discussions in a thoughtful and balanced manner. We appreciate that the study commission contemplates participation by a Blue Cross designee, allowing the commission to consider insurer insights alongside other stakeholder perspectives.

For these reasons, we believe this proposal provides a useful forum for studying and discussing women’s health policy issues, and we appreciate the Committee’s consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Richard Glucksmann

Assistant General Counsel