



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

**Testimony Re: H8245 (Rep. Donovan) AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE --
ACCIDENT AND INSURANCE POLICIES**

March 30, 2026

Dear Chair Donovan and distinguished members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in strong support of House Bill 8245 (Rep. Donovan). **This bill will require 12-month supply coverage of hormone therapy at one time to ensure continuity in access and eliminate gaps in hormone use. No one should struggle to access the medication they rely on—including hormone therapy—because of their income, insurance carrier, or zip code. Yet insurance often limits the supply of hormone therapy a person may obtain at one time, typically limiting access to a one-cycle or three-cycle supply which is why I support H8245.**

Many individuals who are my patients in Rhode Island utilize and depend on hormone therapy as a maintenance medication to treat routine health conditions such as menopause, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) or hypogonadism, gender dysphoria, cancer-related hormone suppression and more. Some people safely take hormones daily for decades. For many of these patients, including those on life-long hormone therapy, they are forced to refill their prescriptions every single month, which is an unnecessary burden that increases the likelihood of experiencing gaps in treatment. Hormone therapy is medically necessary, evidence-based treatment, not elective care. Lack of coverage creates avoidable health risks, workforce disruption, and higher long-term healthcare costs. Ultimately, the decision on the length of a prescription should be decided between a patient and their provider, not an insurance company.

H8245 does not change the medical standard of care. It simply allows providers to prescribe what is best for their patients and ensures stable access to hormone therapy medication for those that rely on it. This bill ensures that when a health care provider decides a 12-month supply of hormone therapy is clinically appropriate, insurance companies cannot arbitrarily block or delay that care. This bill is especially important for Rhode Islanders that live in rural areas, low-income individuals, or those with disabilities. Forcing patients and their providers to fight for authorizations and track down refills every 30 or 90 days is an unnecessary burden that disproportionately harms rural families, low-income individuals working multiple jobs, and those with limited mobility. Consistency is essential for patients because missed or delayed refills can disrupt physical and emotional well-being, create anxiety about supply shortages, and add stress for those balancing work, school, or caregiving responsibilities.



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Just as Rhode Island has guaranteed 12-month dispensing of contraceptive coverage (R.I. Gen. Laws § 27-41-59), **it's time to extend it to menopause care.** Women's health issues have been ignored historically and it is important for us to support our patients as they mature and age. Interruptions in hormone therapy are not benign—they directly impact sleep, mental health, bone health, and workforce participation. No patient should have to ration their prescribed medication or experience adverse health effects because they can't get consistent access to their hormone therapy. By providing uninterrupted access to hormone treatment, we can ensure all people, no matter where they live in the state, get the health care they need .

Lastly, I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts to support and protect the people of Rhode Island and support of bill H8245 will be helpful to our patients. With the current hostile political landscape for reproductive and gender-affirming health care, our state must do everything we can to stand for the fundamental right for people to be able to make decisions about their bodies, lives and futures. By providing consistent access to hormone treatment, we can ensure Rhode Islanders no matter where they live in the state, have healthier outcomes and uninterrupted access to their medication and I urge the committee and legislature to vote in support of H8245.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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