



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 Abortion Fund
RI Academy of Family Physicians
RI Atheists
RI Black Business Association
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
RI National Association of Social Workers
RI National Organization for Women
RI Pharmacists Association
RI Psychiatric Society
RI Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom
RI State Council of Churches
RI Working Families Party
Sojourner House
Upstream
Women's Fund of Rhode Island

To: Senator Louis DiPalma, Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance; Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Finance

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

Date: May 5, 2026

Re: Support for Senate Bill 2811 RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND PROTECT OUR HEALTHCARE ACT OF 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom in support of Senate Bill 2811. Our Coalition, made up of 29 member organizations, works together to share resources, build strategies and coordinate efforts to connect reproductive freedom with social and economic justice. We recognize real inequalities in our state and we envision a RI where everyone has access to affordable and comprehensive reproductive health care.

Within the last year, the state of health care affordability has only become more vulnerable, as both federal cuts to Medicaid and the failure of Congress to renew the Affordable Care Act's premium tax credit program threaten the ability for Rhode Islanders to access and pay for their health insurance. When health insurance becomes unsustainable for patients to financially maintain, patients may either go without health insurance and delay or skip necessary medical services or they may compromise on other necessary living expenses - like housing, food, and utilities - to pay for escalating insurance costs. Both of these outcomes only serve to negatively impact the landscape of public and community health, as delaying medical care and limiting other crucial services lead to worse health outcomes and higher medical costs in the future. This also places an untenable burden on health care providers, who must then shoulder the cost of care for uninsured patients and address more and more severe health concerns.

S 2811 would appropriately ensure that the state provides financial support to health care providers who continue to treat uninsured patients, supporting both community health and the longevity of trusted community health partners. Our Coalition believes that every single individual should have access to the care they need to live their lives with autonomy and dignity

—how and when they want to. This is the true expression of the freedom we promote. For these reasons, RICRF urges support for S 2811.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "njellinek", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom