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## **ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT**

### **TESTIMONY ON 26-S 2254, RELATING TO INSURANCE – ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES April 7, 2025**

The ACLU of Rhode Island supports this comprehensive legislation, which would require health insurance to cover all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and other products.

We believe it is time to update and expand the existing Rhode Island state law that mandates coverage of contraceptives. This legislation would modernize and strengthen the protections of this law by requiring coverage of all FDA-approved contraceptive methods, eliminating unnecessary restrictions and delays, ensuring access to over-the-counter methods without a prescription, and providing Medicaid coverage for a 12-month supply of contraceptives.

Since its passage in 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has successfully expanded health coverage and access to birth control to reach millions. The ACA contraceptive coverage requirement mitigated the cost barrier to contraceptive use, which has demonstrably played a critical role in improving health outcomes and economic security. The no-cost birth control benefit of the ACA has given patients the ability to select the right method of birth control for their lives, without weighing their medical options against the cost of care. This legislation will help ensure that these same benefits apply to all those who need them.

Thank you for considering our views.