



Honorable Chair Murray of the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: S2254

March 7, 2026

Dear Chair Murray and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I write to you on behalf of the Rhode Island Academy of Family Physicians (RIAFF) in strong support of Senate Bill 2254, which seeks to update the state's existing law mandating coverage for contraception to ensure that all FDA-approved methods are covered without cost-sharing.

As Family Physicians, we take care of people of all ages and genders. We overwhelmingly practice in Primary Care settings where we manage routine preventative care, chronic illness, and acute illness and injury. As primary care physicians we also see firsthand the critical role that access to contraception plays in improving health outcomes for patients and their families. Having control over your family planning is not just a matter of individual choice but a cornerstone of public health, economic security, and gender equity.

However, despite the expansion of coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), gaps still exist in our state's reproductive health protections. Insurance coverage for contraception has become increasingly complicated, with restrictions that can delay or limit access, creating unnecessary financial and logistical burdens for patients. As healthcare providers we routinely encounter patients who struggle with the cost of contraception or who have had to switch to less effective methods because their insurance plan didn't cover their preferred method, or because it wasn't affordable.

Senate Bill 2254 is an essential update to the law that will help bridge these gaps. By expanding coverage to include all FDA-approved contraceptive methods, requiring no-cost sharing for over-the-counter contraception, and ensuring that insurers cover a full range of related services, this bill would reduce barriers that disproportionately impact women, particularly those who are uninsured, underinsured, or who have complex medical needs that require personalized contraceptive solutions.

This bill would also ensure that patients can access a full 12-month supply of contraception through Medicaid, which is especially important for improving adherence to contraceptive regimens and reducing unplanned pregnancies. Additionally, by limiting the ability of insurers to

impose unnecessary restrictions, such as prior authorizations or step therapy, the bill will improve efficiency in care delivery and reduce administrative burdens for both patients and providers.

From an economic perspective, the lack of access to affordable contraception disproportionately impacts lower-income communities. When people are forced to pay out-of-pocket for contraception or related services, they face a significant economic strain, which can force them to delay or forego other necessary medical care altogether. Prior to the ACA's birth control benefit going into effect, contraception accounted for 30% to 44% of women's out-of-pocket health care costs. The provision of no-cost birth control under the ACA was an important step in making contraception accessible to all, but we must ensure that these protections remain intact and are expanded upon to address the needs of all Rhode Islanders.

We know that when contraception is accessible and affordable, health outcomes improve. Studies consistently show that access to contraceptive coverage without cost-sharing results in higher usage, improved adherence, and a greater use of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), which are among the most effective forms of pregnancy prevention. This bill will help reduce the financial and health disparities that many individuals face when trying to access the right contraceptive method for their needs.

I urge the Committee to pass Senate Bill 2254 to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to the birth control method that works best for them, without the burden of cost or unnecessary restrictions. Contraception is an essential component of our state's broader commitment to promoting public health, economic security, and reproductive justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katharina de Klerk, DO  
RIAFP President and Advocacy Committee Chair