

**From:** [Doss, Elizabeth](#)  
**To:** [S Legislation](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of S 2460  
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Dear Chair Murray and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Elizabeth Doss, I am from Providence. I am a third-year medical student at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill 2460 by Senator Mack. Fertility health care is essential for building families. Rhode Island was previously a leader in access to fertility care, passing legislation in 1989 to support family building. Unfortunately, medicine has moved far beyond where we were in 1989, and the current provision is outdated. This bill will improve access to family building health care by aligning fertility health care insurance coverage with the medical standard of care, which clearly includes LGBTQ+ and single people, so more Rhode Island residents have the opportunity to build their family.

Working at Women & Infants Hospital, I have had the opportunity to meet many single mothers and individuals trying to become pregnant without male partners. These patients have described the financial burden of being a single parent in addition to the upfront cost of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) or receiving semen. Fertility care is vital health care, and people should be able to access it through their insurance plan. Without coverage, the cost of fertility health care, such as IVF can range from a thousand to tens of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs. We are advocating for equity in pregnancy; this bill supports increasing access to pregnancy and childbirth services for the marginalized patients who come through my hospital. This is an important reproductive justice issue. Every person should have access to health care, including fertility health care, to decide if, when, and how they have children and build their families.

I support S 2460 because access to family-building health care such as IVF is essential health care for so many people in our state. This is an urgent reproductive and economic justice issue. With the current hostile political landscape for reproductive health, our state must do everything we can to stand for the fundamental right for people to be able to decide whether, when, and how to have children. I urge the committee and legislature to vote favorably for S 2460 to improve fertility health care coverage and update our state law, which is outdated and doesn't reflect the standard of health care, so more Rhode Island residents have access to the essential medical care they need to build their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth Doss

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