

**From:** [Duckworth, Megan](#)  
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Dear Chair Murray and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Megan Duckworth, I am from Rumford. I am a resident physician at Women and Infants Hospital specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

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 Unfortunately, medicine has moved far beyond where we were in 1989, and the current provision is outdated with an overly narrow definition of infertility. 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.

As an OB/GYN, I see firsthand how Rhode Island's outdated and narrow definition of infertility fails to reflect modern medical standards and leaves many patients without access to essential care. The 2023 update from the American Society of Reproductive Medicine recognizes a broader, more inclusive understanding of infertility, and our state law must align with that progress to ensure patients can build their families with appropriate medical support. Under the current framework, single individuals and LGBTQ+ families are often excluded or face significant barriers to coverage, despite paying into private insurance plans. Fertility care is not elective—it is a fundamental component of health care. Without insurance coverage, treatments like in vitro fertilization can cost thousands to tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket, placing them out of reach for many. These barriers disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including Black women, who experience higher rates of infertility at baseline and are significantly less likely to be able to access care. In a broader context, ongoing legal and political challenges—such as recent court rulings that threaten IVF access and the rise of unscientific mandates in other states—underscore the urgency of protecting evidence-based, equitable fertility care. This bill represents a critical step toward ensuring that all Rhode Islanders can access medically appropriate, inclusive fertility services.

I support S 2460 because access to family-building health care such as IVF is essential for so many individuals and families across our state. This legislation addresses both reproductive and economic inequities by expanding access to care and updating outdated legal definitions that no longer reflect current medical practice. At a time when reproductive health care is increasingly under threat nationwide, Rhode Island has an opportunity to lead by safeguarding the right of every person to decide if, when, and how to have children. I urge the committee and legislature to vote in favor of S 2460 to strengthen fertility health care coverage and ensure that more Rhode Islanders can access the care they need to build their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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