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Member Agencies

Blackstone Valley
Advocacy Center
Domestic Violence
Resource Center of
South County
Elizabeth Buffum
Chace Center

Women's Resource Center

Task Force

Sisters Overcoming
Abusive Relationships

Affiliate Members

Center for Southeast Asians
Crossroads Rhode Island
Family Service of Rhode Island
McAuley Ministries –
McAuley Village
Progreso Latino
YWCA Rhode Island

To: Senator Melissa A. Murray,
Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Lucy Rios, Executive Director
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Date: May 5, 2026

Re: **Support for Senate Bill 2460**

On behalf of our network of member agencies and SOAR, our taskforce of survivors, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) appreciates this opportunity to express our **strong support for Senate Bill 2460**. This legislation would 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, among others, so more Rhode Island residents have the opportunity to build their family.

Comprehensive access to quality reproductive healthcare is a protective factor for survivors of domestic violence. Reproductive control is one form of violence that survivors experience, in which partners who use violence sabotage or interfere with the survivor's reproductive health and decision-making. In a 2010 study conducted jointly by the University of California-Davis School of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health, researchers found that at least 35% of domestic violence victims reported reproductive control by their abusive partner either by contraception interference or coercion to become pregnant.¹

This bill is about reproductive justice. Every person should have access to health care, including fertility health care. **Healing from domestic violence involves promoting survivor autonomy – including the decision of if, when, and how they have children and build their families.**

This bill is especially critical for LGBTQ+ and Black individuals, who are excluded from the state's existing fertility protections either by statute or by access. Black women are almost twice as likely as white women to suffer from infertility yet are also half as likely as white women to access fertility health care.² **The same communities that are disempowered by restricted fertility access are also at higher risk of experiencing domestic violence.** S. 2460 is one lever that our state can pull to promote reproductive equity and survivor autonomy.

Restrictions that complicate access to family planning, or which make such access prohibitively expensive, exacerbate existing reproductive and maternal health disparities. The legislature should act to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have protected access to the reproductive healthcare they need.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. We urge you to **support Senate Bill 2460**.

¹ "Pregnancy Coercion, Intimate Partner Violence, and Unintended Pregnancy," Miller, et al. *Contraception*, Volume 81, Issue 4, 2010.

² Anjani Chandra, Casey E. Copen & Elizabeth Hervey Stephen, Infertility and Impaired Fecundity in the United States, 1982–2010: Data From the National Survey of Family Growth, NATIONAL HEALTH STATISTICS REPORTS (2013).