



American Civil Liberties Union of RI
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Catholics for Choice
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
Hope and Change for Haiti
Humanists of Rhode Island
League of Women Voters, RI
Medical Students for Choice
National Council of Jewish Women, RI Action Team
Perinatal Quality Collaborative
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Reproductive Health Access Project

Resolve New England
RI Academy of Family Physicians
RI Athiests
RI Black Business Association
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
RI National Association of Social Workers
RI National Organization for Women
RI Pharmacists Association
RI Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom
RI Working Families Party
Sojourner House
Upstream
Women's Fund of Rhode Island
Women's Health and Education Fund

To: Representative Arthur Corvese, Chair of the Labor Committee
Honorable Members of the House Labor Committee

From: Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

Date: February 14, 2023

Re: **Support for House Bill 7171** RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- TEMPORARY
DISABILITY INSURANCE -- GENERAL PROVISIONS

Dear Members of the House Labor Committee,

I write to express the support of the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (RICRF) for House Bill 7171.

RICRF is a Coalition comprised of 27 organizations working together to share resources, build strategies and coordinate efforts to connect reproductive freedom with social and economic justice. We focus on advocacy and legislative action to enact change.

This bill expands Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) through:

- increasing caregiver benefit weeks from 6 to 12 weeks
- expanding the family definition to include siblings, grandchildren, and care recipients
- increasing the weekly dependent's allowance from \$10 to \$20 (or 7% of the benefit amount - whichever is higher) for up to 5 dependents.

Currently, Rhode Island:

- offers the lowest amount of Paid Leave in the U.S. at 6 weeks. The national standard is 12 weeks.
- is an outlier in not including siblings and grandchildren in paid leave policies. Neighboring states Massachusetts and Connecticut both include siblings and grandchildren in their paid leave policies.

- has the lowest wage replacement in the US, and thus low wage workers cannot afford to utilize this program as they are barely making ends meet with 100% of their wages.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. We urge your support of House Bill 7171.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Freedom