



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT RELATING TO INSURANCE-
ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES- LIFETIME LIMITS**

TO: House Committee on Health & Human Services
From: Kelly Nevins, CEO, Women's Fund of Rhode Island
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Women's Fund of Rhode Island (WFRI) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to invest in women and girls through advocacy, research and strategic partnerships designed to achieve gender equity through systemic change. ***We are pleased to submit testimony in support of H-7091.*** This bill would codify the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) protection on annual and lifetime insurance limits that assures people will not suddenly lose health coverage due to expensive and ongoing health issues.

Because women have [3x more debt](#) than men due to the wage and wealth gap, this means they are more susceptible to economic instability due to medical costs. After the ACA was implemented, personal bankruptcies due to medical costs [declined by nearly 50% nationally](#). "It's absolutely remarkable," says Jim Molleur, a bankruptcy attorney with 20 years of experience. "We're not getting people with big medical bills, chronically sick people who would hit those lifetime caps or be denied because of pre-existing conditions. They seemed to disappear almost overnight once ACA kicked in."

Banning annual/lifetime limits has also been shown to save Medicaid money because patients who hit a cap often ended up on Medicaid as a last resort.

It is critical that we prioritize both the health and financial well-being of all members of our community. Women's Fund of Rhode Island respectfully urges approval. **Doing so will protect access to healthcare and protect the personal finances of our community members.**

For more information, we are pleased to share this [fact sheet](#) supplied by the ProtectHealthRI.org Coalition.

The mission of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island is to invest in women and girls through advocacy, research, and strategic partnership designed to achieve gender equity through systemic change. Our [Women's Well-Being Index](#) compares how well women fare against men on topics related to health, safety, economic security, education, and civic participation in every RI city/town. Our [policy briefs](#) are written in response to the data found on the Index. You can find more about our work at www.wfri.org.