

One Richmond Square, Suite 220 A-W Providence, RI 02906

Hearing March 5, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Chair House Judiciary Committee

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering the testimony of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island.

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island opposes H7529 Born Alive Infant Protection Act and H7370 An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Children.

The League of Women Voters supports reproductive health care rights for all women. These bills are an attempt to dismantle these rights which have been codified in Rhode Island. They are presented every year and do not have a place in Rhode Island.

The possibility of severe criminal penalties places providers and other medical professionals in a very difficult position in how to respond to complex medical situations. The medical profession follows guidelines and ethics which are scientifically evidenced based. The bills before you include detailed restrictions, where judgement of appropriate care is left to legislative interpretation of the situation. Providers and their patients need to be able to make important decisions on appropriate medical care on a one to one basis. These bills attempt to insert political interference into medical decision making between the provider and patient on reproductive care and impose impediments for access to abortion.

The League of Women Voters believes that a woman has the right to basic health care which includes reproductive health care.

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island in partnership with the Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom is asking for your opposition of these bills.

Thank you for your consideration,

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