

Anabella Mayorga

From: Rose Ann Huynh <roseannhuynh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:37 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony Against H5296: Born-Alive Infant Protection Act

Dear Representative Edith H. Ajello,

As an Advocate and OB/GYN Provider in Rhode Island, I want to urge you to please vote against HB 5296: Born-Alive Infant Protection Act. This bill is harmful to the people of Rhode Island as it will lead to restrictions in abortion care, which is necessary healthcare. HB 5296 is currently veiled as protecting infants born “alive” during an abortion, but this position is clinically absurd as abortion is not even legal past the gestational age of viability, which is generally 24 weeks. This means if a patient had a medical abortion at 12 weeks gestation, and the fetus was born “alive,” i.e. still has a heartbeat, then medical staff are beholden to prolong the life of this fetus despite a total lack of viability. This is pernicious and harmful to our healthcare system for the following reasons:

- Increased burden on healthcare providers and the healthcare system
- Increased psychological toll on patients undergoing an already emotionally demanding procedure
- Increased taxpayer cost for ‘care’ provided in these futile cases
- Aimed at eroding abortion rights by increasing fear of liability for health care providers

HB 5296 tries to acknowledge this by stating that exceptions include “treatment that will do no more than temporarily prolong the act of dying when death is imminent.” However, how do you define imminent? The authors understand that the language of this bill is purposely vague to allow for variable interpretation with the eventual hope that medical facilities will restrict abortion care in order to prevent liability. This bill will be the pathway to the suffering of patients and end of necessary abortion care. For these reasons and more, please vote against HB 5296.

Sincerely,

Rose Ann Huynh