

Equality in Abortion Coverage (S 2476, H 7618)

Following the historic passage of the Reproductive Privacy Act in 2019, pro-choice organizations have turned their attention to ensuring that reproductive health care, including abortion, is economically accessible for all individuals in Rhode Island. This legislation would ensure that abortion care is covered by both Medicaid and state employee health care.

Gender Rating in Health Insurance (S 2125, H 7440)

Nationwide, women have historically been charged more for the same health insurance as men, solely because of their gender, leaving women less able to purchase vital health care coverage. This practice is generally illegal under the Affordable Care Act, but gaps in the law allow the practice to continue. The uncertain status of the ACA in Congress solidifies the need for protections at the state level. This legislation would ban gender rating in RI, regardless of any changes to federal law.

Uniform Parentage (S 2136, H 7541)

Current law governing parentage in Rhode Island is not fully reflective of the diversity of families that live in the state. This legislation would clear up ambiguities by guaranteeing the right for LGBTQ families to establish parentage in a manner consistent with all other families and would provide clear routes for parentage of children born through assisted reproduction.

Equal Pay (S 2296, H 7227)

The substantial disparities between the employment pay grades of men and women are well-documented, and the gaps between the salaries of white women and women of color in Rhode Island are equally as pronounced and troubling. This “equal pay” legislation would close the wage gap in Rhode Island and is essential to promote growth of our state, and to provide economic mobility for women, and women of color in particular, who have lower incomes than virtually any other group.

CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR CHILDCARE (S 2273, H 7548)

Currently, candidates can use campaign funds for a broad and disparate range of expenses, from graduation gifts to wine and meals. The Federal Election Commission has previously concluded that childcare, if the need for childcare arises as a result of campaign activities, can additionally be a permissible usage of campaign funding. Although the balancing of family and politics is always difficult, it is a particular burden for female candidates, and this legislation would further promote involvement in democracy for a more diverse group of candidates.

**TO BECOME AN ACLU MEMBER or FOR MORE INFO ON
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www.riaclu.org

ACLU of Rhode Island
www.riaclu.org
info@riaclu.org
(401) 831-7171