



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

January 29, 2019

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary
State House – Room 101
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2019 H-5127 Relating to Health and Safety – The Reproductive Health Care Act

Dear Chairman Craven:

I write in strong support of House Bill 5127, which would enshrine the important provisions of *Roe v. Wade* in state law.

As Governor of Rhode Island, I am wholly committed to providing access to quality, affordable health care. I support efforts to protect Rhode Island women's right to reproductive health care. This bill maintains the status quo in Rhode Island as it has existed for decades, but is important now in light of uncertainty about changes that may come from the Federal government. I believe that no one should get in the middle of a decision between a woman and her doctor and that no woman should have to choose between health care and making ends meet.

Fundamentally, this bill protects the right of women to make their own health and reproductive decisions. While we all share the goal of reducing unwanted pregnancies and abortions, the right way to achieve this is through education and access to healthcare and contraception – not by criminalizing women's reproductive decisions.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Edith H. Ajello
Danica Iacoi