



## **Oppose H5047 & H5228: No more lies to mess with access to abortion care!**

[H5047](#) is a copycat of a bill we have seen many times before that pushes lies and harmful rhetoric about abortion to try to demonize providers, judge and stigmatize the people who need abortions, and put up limits to abortion. This bill talks about the idea of “born alive”. This is a purposely incendiary and deceptive title to try to make people support obstacles to abortion – and perpetuate really insulting lies about providers. There is another similar bill as well that is being considered - [H5228](#).

We have seen legislation like this before that meddle with health services and push truly ridiculous rhetoric to demean and denigrate abortion providers and people who seek abortion. Bills like this have no place in Rhode Island.

**The bills have been assigned to the [House Judiciary Committee](#).** A hearing will likely be scheduled for this bill, but in the meantime you can send a letter to express opposition (via email) to the committee members. We will really need folks to show up in person to testify. We know that people who are trying to ban abortion will show up. We will keep you posted on scheduling!

- Talking points are included below.
- A sample letter and testimony templates are included below.

You should also reach to the House Judiciary Committee - only takes a moment:

rep-craven@rilegislature.gov; rep-knight@rilegislature.gov; rep-ajello@rilegislature.gov;  
rep-batista@rilegislature.gov; rep-bennett@rilegislature.gov; rep-caldwell@rilegislature.gov;  
rep-casimiro@rilegislature.gov; rep-corvese@rilegislature.gov; rep-felix@rilegislature.gov;  
rep-lombardi@rilegislature.gov; rep-noret@rilegislature.gov; rep-place@rilegislature.gov;  
rep-roberts@rilegislature.gov; rep-vella-wilkinson@rilegislature.gov.

### **Talking Points: No on H5047 and H228**

- I am very concerned by the false implication that licensed doctors would ever withhold care from any infant. It is insulting and dangerous to imply that this is happening. Abortion providers are trained and compassionate professionals doing their best to help patients in spite of frequent harassment and even violence.
- These bills are meant to disparage abortion providers in order to lay the groundwork to take away all access to abortion and we know who that harms most – people who are pushed to the margins who are already struggling to obtain affordable, quality health services.
- Anti-abortion politicians across the country have attempted to pass several abortion bans in recent years. These bills are just another tactic in their quest to make abortion completely inaccessible, or even illegal. These bills have no grounding in reality. This nonexistent situation is offensive, and dangerous.

- Instead of respecting every person's decision, anti-abortion politicians are resorting to false rhetoric to distract from their true agenda — to push abortion care out of reach and punish patients and their providers. There are politicians who do not want abortion to be available at all in any circumstances. They create bills that play on the worst lies to restrict or outright ban abortion.
- If we really cared about the lives or health of women and families in our state, there are so many policies that would truly help, including H5006, the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act to make sure folks can afford safe abortion care. There are also policies that help to support low-income families and close other gaps in health service access. These are the bills people need!

## **Letter/Email to Oppose H5047 and H5228**

Subject: AGAINST/NO on H5047 and NO on H5228

Dear HouseJudiciary Committee,

I am a Rhode Island voter writing to urge you to vote no on H5047 and H5228. These bills are deliberately misleading and offensive to pregnant people and the doctors and nurses who provide their care. It is yet another attempt by anti-abortion politicians to spread misinformation as a means to move their true agenda, which has nothing to do with health, dignity, science or facts and everything to do with banning all access for all people to safe and legal abortion.

Let's be clear: Doctors are already required to provide appropriate medical care by law and the professionals who work hard to ensure access to abortion care do so with compassion and high quality standards even in the face of harassment threats and this kind of denigration. It is irresponsible, and insulting to suggest otherwise.

Bills like H5047 and H5228 are not new. Anti-abortion lawmakers in Congress and around the country have introduced similar bills for years. It is time to stop this sham. Please, vote no on H5047 and H5228 when it comes before you. I hope you will instead choose to support legislation that is about bodily autonomy and protecting healthcare access. A good first step would be support for the *Equality in Abortion Coverage Act* (H5006).

We should never interfere with doctors and make it harder for health professionals to respect the needs of their patients or ask them to compromise their medical judgment as to what information or treatment is in the best interest of their patient and we should do more to protect every person's right to make their own decision about how to plan their families and futures. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Name, Address, Phone

## **Sample Testimony**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am providing testimony in strong opposition to H5047 and H5228. I am here as a volunteer with The Womxn Project, a statewide organization focused on advancing the principles of

reproductive justice, which demands that we all have the right to determine when and how we build our relationships, families and futures and that we have the ability to live and raise our children with dignity.

I am testifying in very strong opposition to H5047 and H5228. This bill uses the term “born alive” to make inflammatory claims about abortion care and imply that doctors or health professionals who provide abortions would ever withhold care from any infant. It is insulting and dangerous to imply that this is happening.

Abortion providers are trained and compassionate professionals doing their best to help patients in spite of frequent harassment and even violence. This bill is meant to disparage them and to lay the groundwork to take away all access to abortion and we know who that harms most – people who are pushed to the margins who are already struggling to obtain affordable, quality health services.

Instead of respecting every person’s decision, this bill resorts to false rhetoric to distract from the true agenda — to push abortion care out of reach and punish patients and their providers. There are some politicians who do not want abortion to be available at all in any circumstances. They create bills that play on the worst lies to restrict or outright ban abortion. These bills unnecessarily place politicians between a woman and her doctor.

Numerous health care organizations, representing thousands of clinicians, oppose these bills including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Nurse-Midwives, and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine have strongly opposed bills that place lawmakers in the position of interfering with reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

Attempts to take away access to health care or to denigrate health providers are not helping anyone. I am writing to strongly oppose this bill and call it what it is – another political game being played on the backs of women and families in Rhode Island. If we really cared about the lives or health of women and families in our state, there are so many policies that would truly help to close gaps in access to care and make sure families have the support they need to have healthy pregnancies or raise their families with dignity. This bill is NOT one of them.

Proponents of this bill will talk about life and health and what is right. To me it seems that supporting people who are ready to be parents or add to their family to have the care they need to have a healthy pregnancy is a positive and effective way forward, not yet another bill trying to take away access to abortion. We can do more to support women and families and ensure people can raise their children in safe and healthy communities and have the resources and support to care for their families. This bill does not do that. I am urging you to vote no on H5047 and H5228. Instead use your time to solve the very real challenges facing families in our state. Let’s push for positive change instead of more political agendas. Thank you.

Contact: Name, Address, Phone

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***We need you to call, email, send letters to papers, show up to hearings - anything you can do to help us halt attacks on our bodily autonomy and pass the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act and other priority bills for a better future! Contact [info@thewomxnproject.org](mailto:info@thewomxnproject.org) for any questions or to learn more about how you can get involved.***