



## Back at the State House: 2022 Legislative Priorities

**We're witnessing an all-out attack on reproductive freedom in America.** Politicians across the country, and even the U.S. Supreme Court, are determined to eliminate access to abortion and take away our health care and our rights. Thanks to your help, we won't let it happen in Rhode Island - not on our watch.

**Rhode Island's legislative session began on January 4.** This year, we will continue to fight for policies that expand access to sexual and reproductive health care for all; end Rhode Island's abortion bans and expand access to abortion; and safeguard the rights of Planned Parenthood patients and advance reproductive freedom in our state.

**Your support is crucial** – you help power our advocacy and organizing work and elect champions who will fight for reproductive rights and access to health care. Thank you!



Learn more and take action  
at [ppvotes.org](https://ppvotes.org)



### Ensure Equitable Abortion Access

Abortion bans aren't just a problem in states like Texas, Mississippi, and Arkansas. **Right now, state laws prevent nearly 1 in 3 Rhode Island residents - people enrolled in Medicaid and state employees and their dependents - from using their health insurance to cover abortion.**

Like all abortion bans, these laws disproportionately harm Black and Latinx people, people with low incomes, people in rural areas, immigrants and anyone shut out of our health care system. Abortion bans are discriminatory and racist, reinforcing inequity and injustice in our state.

This year, we must pass the **Equality in Abortion Coverage Act (H7442)** to help ensure equitable access to abortion for all Rhode Islanders.

### Protect Reproductive Health and Rights

Alongside our coalition and community partners, we will continue the fight this year to:

- **Protect access to birth control** and codify the essential health benefits of the Affordable Care Act in state law
- **Increase postpartum coverage** for Medicaid patients from 60 days to 1 year
- **Improve Rhode Island's sex education requirements** to include LGBTQ+ identities, consent, and safe relationships instruction in Rhode Island schools
- **Provide health care coverage for all kids**, regardless of immigration status
- **Increase access to contraception** by allowing pharmacists to prescribe birth control

# Let's Honor Roe v. Wade: Pass the EACA!

Last month was the 49th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that protects the right to safe, legal abortion. Despite nearly five decades of legal precedent and settled case law, our constitutional right to abortion has never been at greater risk. **We are at a crisis point - by this summer, the court could eliminate the right to abortion in our country.**

The overturning of *Roe* means that 36 million women - nearly half the women of reproductive age in America - and more people who can become pregnant could lose access to abortion. Elected officials must act now to eliminate all bans on abortion, including here in Rhode Island.

The **Equality in Abortion Coverage Act (EACA)**, sponsored by Sen. Bridget Valverde and Rep. Liana Cassar, will expand access to abortion. The bill will:

- End Rhode Island's abortion bans
- Remove state laws prohibiting more than 300,000 residents from using their health insurance to cover abortion
- Expand abortion access by adding abortion coverage to our Medicaid program

## Rhode Island 100 Voices Members

*100 Voices for Planned Parenthood is a group of bold philanthropic leaders who have made a gift of \$1,000 or more to PPV!RI within the last year.*

- William Aseityne and Jeff Stryker  
 George T. Boyer  
 Dr. Laurette K. Bradley and Dr. Augustus K. Uht  
 Mary and Nate Chace  
 Merle and Stanley Goldstein  
 Doree Goodman and Michael Gerhardt  
 Dr. Alma Guerrero Bready and Dr. Barrett Bready  
 Tina and Jerry McIntyre  
 Sheila Mossman  
 Cynthia B. Patterson  
 Sarah and Craig Richardson  
 Julie R. Sharpe  
 Brett Smiley and Jim DeRentis  
 Ms. Sally Strachan  
 Lynn Taylor and Boris Bally  
 Mr. Don E. Wineberg, Esq. and Mrs. Kitty Wineberg  
 Connie Worthington and Terry Tullis  
 Hon. Myrth York and Mr. David Green

List as of 1.31.2022



## The EACA is in the News

People are speaking out to protect abortion access – **and so can YOU!**

Take action and help pass this bill by writing an opinion article or a Letter to the Editor. **Email [organizing@ppsne.org](mailto:organizing@ppsne.org) to get involved.**

## This is an issue of fairness, equity, and justice.

Access to abortion shouldn't depend on how much money you have or your insurance coverage.

To honor the spirit of *Roe v. Wade*, we must continue to defend abortion access in our state and give everyone the freedom and power to make their own decisions about their bodies, their lives, and their futures. We can do it, thanks to your help!

## Making Change, Together

We can't do this work alone – PPV!RI is a proud member of coalitions aligned in our mission to expand access to health care, advance reproductive freedom, and achieve lasting, systemic change in our state:

### Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (RICRF)

protects and advances access to reproductive health care through advocacy and legislative action.



### Protect Our Healthcare

is a coalition of Rhode Island community and service organizations and hundreds of individuals with a mission to protect access to quality, affordable health care for all.

