



March 2, 2026

SB Bill 295 An Act Concerning State Law Protections For Health Care Providers and Patients Related to The Provision of A Legally Protected Health Care Activity

Chairmen Winfield and Stafsfrom, Vice Chairs Flexer, Gadkar-Wilcox and Fazzino and Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein.

My name is Ann Reed and I am Co-Head for Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut. I am submitting written testimony in support of SB 295

At the League of Women Voters in Connecticut we are very grateful that the laws and the people of Connecticut support us in ensuring everyone has access to this essential health care. Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support SB 295. This bill will ensure our state continues to do everything in its power to protect Connecticut's health care providers and access to reproductive health care services, including abortion and prescribed health care for transgender people. In a time when state-level restrictions on abortion and gender-affirming care are stripping people of essential health care, telehealth has become a critical lifeline—connecting patients to the care they need regardless of where they live. Connecticut has an opportunity to ensure that providers in our state can continue to safely support pregnant patients across the country through telehealth, but they need clear and strong legal protections to do so. SB 295 will bolster

Connecticut's shield law and protect providers offering legally protected and medically necessary care, regardless of the patient's ZIP code. Connecticut's health care providers should not be beholden to out-of-state lawmakers interfering with their ability to provide legally protected and medically necessary care. Their mission is to provide the highest standard of care, and telehealth allows them to do that. Telehealth allows for safety and privacy as patients access care that might otherwise be out of reach. Connecticut acted boldly in 2022 to pass the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act to protect Connecticut providers from anti-abortion extremists in other states. By passing SB 295, our state would reaffirm its commitment to protecting medical providers and patients from out-of-state overreach. These providers are taking on risk to provide patients with necessary health care.

Thank you for your leadership in this time.