



State of Connecticut
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

TO: Committee on Public Health
Senator Saud Anwar and Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Co-Chairs

FROM: **The Reproductive Rights Caucus**

DATE: March 13th, 2026

RE: **Written Testimony in Favor of Raised H.B. No. 5516: AN ACT CONCERNING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

Dear Senator Anwar, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Kushner, Senator Marx, Representative Belton, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of H.B. No. 5516, An Act Concerning Reproductive Rights**. On behalf of the Reproductive Rights Caucus, we are pleased to express our commitment to policies that support the totality of reproductive health care and gender-affirming care for Connecticut residents, including protecting access to critical health care services like abortion.

Health care professionals deliver essential services that protect the health and lives of Connecticut residents. However, [providers are increasingly seeing threats to their ability to provide reproductive health care services](#), especially abortion, as well as to provide medically accurate information and counseling regarding reproductive and gender-affirming care. Whether people choose to have a child or not, they need access to essential services. The ability of health care providers to provide lifesaving care in situations such as miscarriage management, treatment for ectopic pregnancies, and abortion, and to counsel patients in accordance with accepted standards of care, is vital for the delivery of health care and for the right of patients to receive accurate information and appropriate care.

Health care providers must be able to act in the best interest of their patients, rather than be constrained by the ideological position of institutions. [Institutional restrictions can impair the provision](#) of comprehensive reproductive health care and limit providers' ability to counsel patients fully regarding their medical options, which is particularly important for those facing medical complications during pregnancy or seeking other time-sensitive care. Connecticut should continue to lead in protecting access to reproductive health care and in safeguarding providers who act within the accepted standard of care.

A supportive environment for comprehensive reproductive health care is fundamental to protecting the [health care providers who contribute to the health and economy of the state](#) through providing health care services. Furthermore, this strengthens trust in Connecticut's reproductive health services for those who choose to live and receive health care in our state.

Providers across the state and the country are facing new challenges to their oaths to provide their patients with the care they need. Although [recent federal guidance has shifted](#), EMTALA remains in force and continues to require stabilizing treatment for emergency medical conditions. With H.B. 5516, Connecticut has the opportunity to uphold the ability of health care providers to care for their patients and to protect patients' access to medically accurate information and counseling regarding reproductive and gender-affirming care.

H.B. 5516 enables the state to take steps toward ensuring comprehensive reproductive care access. First, the bill establishes that health care entities should not restrict health care providers from offering comprehensive and medically accurate information and counseling to patients within the accepted standard of care. Second, it prohibits health care entities from taking adverse action against health care providers for providing such information and counseling in good faith and within the provider's scope of practice. No health care provider should have to operate in fear of retribution for providing patients with medically accurate information and appropriate care.

Establishing protections for health care providers demonstrates a commitment to the health and well-being of those across Connecticut. Personal beliefs should not be a barrier to comprehensive reproductive health care or gender-affirming care. The Reproductive Rights Caucus is proud to support H.B. 5516 so that we can help ensure that individuals receive needed, medically accurate information and care from their providers without institutional interference.

We thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of it.

Sincerely,

The Reproductive Rights Caucus

Representative Matt Blumenthal, Co-Chair

Representative Raghiv Allie-Brennan

Representative Hector Arzeno

Representative Aimee Berger-Girvalo

Representative Marcus Brown

Representative Aundre Bumgardner

Representative Eilish Collins Main

Representative Savet Constantine

Representative Lucy Dathan

Representative Hubert Delany

Representative Mike Demicco

Representative Jason Doucette

Representative Josh Elliott

Representative Tammy Exum

Representative Nick Gauthier

Representative Kate Farrar
Representative Jaime Foster
Representative Jane Garibay
Representative Dan Gaiowski
Representative Bob Godfrey
Representative Gregory Haddad
Representative Maria Horn
Representative Anne Hughes
Representative Jonathan Jacobson
Representative Dominique Johnson
Representative Susan Johnson
Representative Eleni Kavros DeGraw
Representative Sarah Keitt
Representative Renee LaMark Muir
Representative Jennifer Leeper
Representative Liz Linehan
Representative Geoff Luxenberg
Representative Rebecca Martinez
Representative Nick Menapace
Representative Amy Morrin Bello
Representative Anthony Nolan
Representative Melissa Osborne
Representative Corey Paris
Representative John-Michael Parker
Representative Michael Quinn
Representative Moira Rader
Representative Iris Sanchez
Representative Hilda Santiago
Representative Kaitlyn Shake
Representative Jonathan Steinberg
Representative Laurie Sweet
Representative Gary Turco
Representative Mary Welander
Representative Steve Winter
Senator Christine Cohen
Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox
Senator Jan Hochadel
Senator Ceci Maher
Senator Martha Marx
Senator Derek Slap