



## CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Honorable Chairperson Prata and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 0152 to ensure the preservation of reproductive rights for women and families under Rhode Island State Law.

As Mayor of Providence, I am committed to supporting access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including contraception and abortion. Given the current federal climate, it is critical that we codify reproductive health care rights in to state law, rights that have been in place at the federal level for many years.

A woman's right to make evidence-based, medically recognized decisions for her own body is an issue of equity and social justice. Comprehensive reproductive healthcare is key to the wellbeing of our state's women and families. It enables our young women to determine their own futures and pursue education, careers and other directions in life that may be limited by unplanned pregnancies. Evidence shows that life outcomes – including poverty and cognitive development- are worse for existing children whose mothers are not able to choose if and when to have more children. These decisions should only be made between a woman and her doctor.

I strongly encourage you to support this bill and ensure equitable access to essential reproductive health services for Rhode Island women and families. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Elorza".

Mayor Jorge O. Elorza  
City of Providence