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**Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 5414, An Act Concerning  
Protections for Persons Receiving and Providing Reproductive Health  
Care in the State**

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 5414, An Act Concerning Protections for Persons Receiving and Providing Reproductive Health Care in the State.

The ACLU-CT unwaveringly supports the constitutional right to seek an abortion. Across the country, states are passing increasingly radical, restrictive laws designed to ban abortion outright. When states pass abortion bans, the burden falls on the patient who needs access to essential, time-sensitive care, providers, and clinics in neighboring states to support abortion access. When one state passes a restrictive abortion ban, other states follow the same playbook and take it even a step further, leading to a wave of increasingly radical and extreme abortion bans across the country. This will only worsen as the Supreme Court appears poised to overturn nearly fifty years of precedent and cut the protections of *Roe v. Wade* and its progeny. Abortion is legal in Connecticut, and is still legal across the country. Patients deserve a shield against enforcement from other states when they seek legal health care in the state of Connecticut.

Patients deserve privacy, and no one should have their medical legal history used against them in a lawsuit or legal enforcement. Patients deserve community support from their network when seeking care—we must protect those who assist patients in

accessing abortion. Providers should be able to deliver abortion care to patients without the fear of repercussions from other states' laws. House Bill 5414 would ensure that our state's laws protect people in Connecticut so that providers can continue to offer the health care that is legal in our state. The state of Connecticut must protect our health care providers and patients who receive care within our borders from the egregious overreach of politicians in states across the country.

House Bill 5414 is essential to defending the constitutional right to an abortion and to protecting our healthcare providers. The bill seeks to prevent Connecticut courts from cooperating with a lawsuit or prosecution regarding a lawful abortion in the state while also protecting those in Connecticut from extradition for charges in other states related to abortion. House Bill 5414 would also prohibit foreign courts from compelling HIPPA-covered health care providers to share protected health information related to a lawful abortion in Connecticut. These measures are essential to fighting against other states' laws that target patients and providers in our state in an attempt to unjustly nullify federal law and of other states. The ACLU-CT strongly supports measures that protect the right to access an abortion, and urges this Committee to do the same.