



Legislative Testimony
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**Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6617, An Act Promoting Equity
in Coverage for Fertility Healthcare**

Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrest, Ranking Members Seminara and Case,
and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify in support of House Bill 6617, An Act Promoting Equity in Coverage for Fertility Healthcare.

The ACLU-CT believes that all people deserve equal access to reproductive health services, including fertility treatments. Every person should be able to choose whether or not to have children. But individual and systemic discrimination disproportionately prevents people from receiving fertility treatment because of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity.¹ At the same time, fertility treatments often are not covered by insurance, making it more difficult for low-income people to access the care that they need.² LGBTQ+ people are also routinely discriminated against because of a heteronormative definition of infertility used by insurers that requires an inability to get pregnant after one year of unprotected sex, which often excludes same-sex couples from IVF coverage.³ House Bill 6617 counters this injustice by expanding its definitions of infertility and fertility patient to include LGBTQ+ people.

¹ *Disparities in Access to Effective Treatment for Infertility in the United States: An Ethics Committee Opinion*, Ethics Committee for the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (2021), https://www.asrm.org/globalassets/asrm/asrm-content/news-and-publications/ethics-committee-opinions/disparities_in_access_to_effective_treatment_for_infertility_in_the_us.pdf.

² *Id.*

³ Shira Stein, *LGBTQ Couples' IVF Hopes Hinge on New Infertility Definition*, BLOOMBERG LAW (May 17, 2022), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/lgbtq-couples-ivf-hopes-hinge-on-new-infertility-definition>.

House Bill 6617 is a significant step in reducing the barriers that people of color, working people, LGBTQ+ people, and others face when they pursue fertility treatment. The ACLU-CT supports this bill and urges this Committee to do the same.