



128 Dorrance Street, Suite 400
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: (401) 831-7171
Fax: (401) 831-7175
www.riaclu.org
info@riaclu.org

ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

**TESTIMONY ON 23 – H 5226,
ACTS RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS – ADOPTION OF CHILDREN
March 9, 2023**

The ACLU of RI is strongly in support of this legislation which would provide a streamlined adoption process for children born through assisted reproduction. This legislation makes an important step in protecting the diversity of families in Rhode Island and ensuring that families – particularly LGBTQ+ families – do not face undue and inappropriate discrimination in establishing parentage for their own children.

State-level codifications of protective statutes such as this are especially important in the context of the continued and anticipated erosion of many rights which are currently nationally recognized through US Supreme Court decisions. This legislation is proactive, pragmatic, and adds a critical layer of state-level protection for the LGBTQ+ community to ensure access to legal protections for their families, even in the aftermath of any future devastating SCOTUS decisions.

The necessity of this legislation can already be illustrated by the burdensome and invasive process that it currently takes for some parents to confirm parentage of their children. Its importance is only compounded by the clear need for Rhode Island to proactively take steps to provide the protections it can to LGBTQ+ families and communities.

We therefore strongly urge passage of this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.