

CATHOLICS
FOR
CHOICE

IN GOOD CONSCIENCE

April 17, 2018

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Office of the Governor
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Raimondo:

It is with great esteem that I write to thank you for expressing your support for the Reproductive Health Care Act ("RHCA," HB 7340) on April 10, 2018. As uncertainty at the federal level grows, it is imperative for Rhode Island to stand affirmatively for the ability of each woman to follow her own conscience and make deeply personal decisions about her reproductive future.

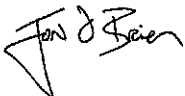
As Catholics, we are called by our faith to follow our consciences in all matters of moral decision-making and to respect the right of others to do the same. Catholics for Choice serves as a voice for the majority of the faithful in the Catholic church who believe that the Catholic tradition supports a woman's moral and legal right to follow her conscience on important matters, including reproductive health decisions. Throughout the world we strive to be an expression of Catholicism as it is lived by ordinary people, including the 620,000 Catholics who call Rhode Island home.

Few decisions are more life-changing than choosing whether and when to become a parent. The RHCA protects each person's right to make decisions according to her own beliefs and values, without interference from her legislators. We could not agree more that, as you stated in your testimony, "no one should get in the middle of a decision between a woman and her doctor and no woman should have to choose between healthcare and making ends meet."

We applaud your courage and conviction and thank you for standing with the women of Rhode Island. Please know that Catholics for Choice is here to support your continued leadership on matters of reproductive health, constitutional rights and individual conscience. Please do not hesitate to contact Glenn Northern, Domestic Program Director, at gnorthern@catholicsforchoice.org or (202) 986-6093.

Thank you again for supporting the RHCA and for doing what is right for all of Rhode Island's women.

Sincerely,



Jon O'Brien
President

1436 U Street NW, Suite 301 • Washington, DC 20009 • tel 202-986-6093 • fax 202-332-7995
cfc@catholicsforchoice.org • catholicsforchoice.org

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