

Chris O'Brien

From: Christopher Michael <christopher@bridgesapaixonadas.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 1:53 PM
To: SLegislation; House Finance Committee
Subject: Support for Maternal Care in RI

You don't often get email from christopher@bridgesapaixonadas.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon,

My name is Christopher Botelho and I'm a born and raised Rhode Islander still living in the Ocean State. I'm writing to you today in support of H8174, H8175, S2669, and S2671.

Both midwifery and lactation consultation are vital services for birthing parents in RI. As a doula, I have seen firsthand how competent, community-centered care and support can positively affect the health outcomes of families. Midwives have a unique touch when it comes to caring for their patients and their families. Their knowledge is extensive and they prioritize the whole person and their overall wellbeing. Not just their vital signs and lab results.

Parents that are having trouble with nursing can become overwhelmed and frustrated. Babies waking during the night hungry to an exhausted parent struggling to feed. And there can be such societal pressure around nursing that those struggling may take it personally and be further negatively affected. This is where lactation counselors play a necessary role in assisting these families.

As a Community Health grad from Brown University, it is my firm belief that all RI families should have access to these life-saving services, regardless of their ability to pay. That is public health. I'm asking that you please ensure coverage to these services for RI Medicaid recipients.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christopher Botelho