

I am writing as a 20 year resident of Rhode Island, current resident of Pawtucket and community based doula, mother and certified lactation counselor. I write in support of Midwifery bill H8175 as someone who has seen the inequities in healthcare up close and personal. As someone who works hard within the community to build relationships and trust with new parents to be able to fill in the gaps in them feeling cared for, heard, seen and respected both culturally and interpersonally.

This bill is very important in combatting some of the states gaps in care as certified professional midwives also provide well women care like pap smears, breast exams and sti screening and care.

As a trained certified lactation counselor I would be able to bill insurance and personally impact my own family's financial standing with skills I have worked hard to acquire and are needed in the community. When professionally trained lactation professionals are available to all in the community and more parents breast/chest feed the overall health rates will be better for a whole generation with the benefits to health known by the World Health Organization.

It is imperative for me that this bill goes through not only personally but professionally.

Sincerely,

Emerald Ortiz

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Sacred Wombhood Birth Support Services, LLC d/b/a EmDoula Birth Support  
Birth & Postpartum Doula, Childbirth Educator, Certified Lactation Counselor, Pregnancy  
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