

Chris O'Brien

From: Felicia Love <felicialove415@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 11:21 AM
To: House Finance Committee; Rep. Abney, Marvin L.; Rep. Morales, David
Subject: Support for H8175 Midwifery Bill and H8174 CLC Bill

Categories: Red category

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Dear Members of the House Finance Committee, Rep. Abney, and my state representative, Rep. Morales,

My name is Felicia Love. I am a Rhode Island registered nurse and certified perinatal doula. I am writing to you in support of Midwifery Bill H8175 and CLC Bill H8174.

In my work supporting families across pregnancy, birth, and postpartum, I have witnessed both the strength of our healthcare system and the gaps that place families at risk. These bills are an opportunity to close those gaps with evidence-based, cost-effective care that improves outcomes for both parents and babies.

Expanding access to licensed midwifery care is not only safe—it is essential. Midwifery care is associated with lower rates of interventions, including cesarean sections, which carry higher costs and increased risks. By supporting midwives as integrated members of the healthcare system, Rhode Island can reduce healthcare spending while improving maternal and neonatal outcomes. Rhode Island was one of the first states to expand doula coverage to families receiving Medicaid and passing these bills would position us as leaders once again.

Equally important is the Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) bill. Lactation support is not a luxury—it is a critical, life-saving intervention. Early and consistent lactation care reduces complications and improves health outcomes. Investing in lactation support is a clear and proven cost-saving measure that strengthens the health of families from the very beginning.

These bills also address a fundamental issue of equity and choice. Currently, safe home birth and comprehensive lactation support are often only accessible to families who can afford to pay out of pocket. This creates a two-tiered system where only some families can access the full spectrum of safe, evidence-based care. All families—regardless of income—deserve the ability to choose the type of care and birth setting that is right for them.

I have personally supported safe home births and have seen firsthand how well-coordinated, skilled care outside of the hospital can be both safe and empowering when appropriate care and collaboration are in place. These bills help ensure that such care is accessible for all.

At a time when maternal health outcomes in the United States remain a serious concern, especially for marginalized communities, we must invest in solutions that are proven to save lives. Midwifery care and lactation support are among those solutions.

I urge you to support H8175 and H8174. These bills represent thoughtful, compassionate policy that expands access, reduces costs, and, most importantly, protects the lives and well-being of Rhode Island families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Felicia Love, RN CD
Registered Nurse | Certified Perinatal Doula

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