

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Mariela Minor <mariela.minor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 10:26 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee; SLegislation  
**Subject:** Support for H8174, H8175, S2669, S2671

**Categories:** Blue category

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Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for bills H8174, H8175, S2669, and S2671, which aim to expand Medicaid coverage for licensed midwifery care and certified lactation services in Rhode Island.

As a member of the community and someone deeply connected to perinatal support work, I have seen firsthand how critical access to these services is for families—especially those who are underserved. Midwifery care, lactation support, and access to birth centers are not luxuries; they are essential components of safe, respectful, and culturally responsive maternal healthcare.

Many families in Rhode Island face barriers to receiving adequate support during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. Expanding coverage for these services will improve health outcomes, reduce disparities, and ensure that families have access to the care they need during one of the most important times in their lives.

Supporting lactation counselors also helps ensure that families receive education and guidance that can significantly impact both maternal and infant health outcomes.

I urge you to support these bills and invest in the health and well-being of Rhode Island families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mariela Minor  
Providence, RI

Sent from my iPhone