

May 5, 2026

Re: Support of Bill H.8175  
Support of the financial sustainability of local CLC's

I've been a CLC in Rhode Island for the last 12 years.

I support the financial sustainability of local lactation counselors for in-home, office and medical settings. This is very important for families who need lactation support, education and services.

My work is valued by the community and the families that I've served. I attend to new mothers within 24 hours of a call for lactation support. I provide guidance in the security and comfort of their homes. I stay within the scope of practice, put forth by the ALPP (Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice). Many common breastfeeding issues can be addressed quickly and safely by me, and other CLC's.

My support of Bill H.8175 is for families of newborns to get fast and efficient support. CLC's are abundant in the RI community, because the extensive training and certification is attainable. To become an IBCLC involves a considerable financial burden, as well as the thousand hours of shadowing, which is not attainable to the large population of caregivers.

CLC's are trained to address common issues in early lactation and build confidence in the new mother.

To provide this service and support to Medicaid families is important-they often fall through the cracks in healthcare due to lack of transportation and family responsibilities.

The passage of this Bill will increase breastfeeding rates in RI, resulting in the many benefits breastfeeding provides for both mother and baby.

Your support is appreciated.

Thank you.

Paulette Butler CLC  
5 Hillview Ave  
North Smithfield, RI 02896

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_JO-ciUYa9IPSBPcBu-3RJOtNcheAZzf11GPJYVwpH0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_JO-ciUYa9IPSBPcBu-3RJOtNcheAZzf11GPJYVwpH0/edit?usp=sharing)