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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON ARTICLE 12, 21-H 6122 and
21-H 5929, AN ACT RELATING TO PERINATAL DOULA SERVICES
April 14, 2021

The ACLU of RI is appreciative of the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation which would ensure healthcare coverage for perinatal doula services. This important bill and budget article will provide a critical foundation for health equity in perinatal care and will help address the racial disparities found in maternal mortality rates in both Rhode Island and across the country.

This legislation will ensure that all pregnant individuals have access to culturally competent support services from professional doulas, which can promote the person's autonomy and safety. We urge passage of this bill and the budget article.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by: Hannah Stern, Policy Associate