

**Template for Written Testimony-Individual
Rhode Island General Assembly**

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Amariee S Collins

Date: March 13, 2025

Re: House Bill 5858 - Prescriptive Authority for Certified Professional Midwives

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today. Thank you to Representatives Stewart, Alzate, Cruz, Shallcross Smith, Kislak, Potter, McGaw, and Casimiro for sponsoring this bill.

My name is **Amariee Collins** and I'm writing in support of House Bill 5858. This bill establishes the scope of Certified Professional Midwives' practice and authority related to prescribing medication for their patients. This will allow CPMs to independently care for their patients and allow the potential of this growing workforce to be fully realized.

Establishing the scope of prescribing medications and supplements will ensure and allow for ordering medications online as some companies do not allow for buying certain medications without a pharmacological list in the law. We know that medications are not enough or not acceptable for each condition so supplements and support structures are suitable for the discomforts in pregnancy, aid in lactation or assisting in well body care. This will allow for CPMs, those licensed by the state, to send referrals to practitioners that support the perinatal period, chiropractors, acupuncturist, physical therapist, IBCLC/CLCs, etc and not limit the care and continuum of care for the client, and the CPM as a licensed provider established. This ensures the full scope of care is expressed for CPMs and that they are able to fully commit to our profession.

I urge you to pass House Bill 5858 to ensure that certified professional midwives can practice to the fullest of their training and ability and prescribe medication for their patients and ensure that we have all the tools in the toolbox to assist and take care of all of our clients within our scope of care. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.