



To: House Health and Human Services Committee
From: National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
Date: March 13, 2025
Re: House Bill 5858 - Prescriptive Authority for Certified Professional Midwives

On behalf of the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment, H5858. **We are writing to express our strong support for the bill which will ensure appropriate prescriptive authority for Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) licensed in the state.**

CPMs are highly skilled perinatal healthcare providers whose scope of practice includes the preconception, prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum periods. CPMs in Rhode Island are required to have completed educational programs that satisfy the rigorous standards established by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). ICM Essential Competencies for Midwifery Practice include the provision of sexual and reproductive healthcare, prenatal care, intrapartum care, and the ongoing care of women and gender diverse people and their newborns. The proposed expansion of prescriptive authority aligns with national and international standards that enable CPMs to provide comprehensive midwifery care throughout the reproductive life cycle. There is an abundance of evidence to demonstrate the positive impact of midwifery care on health outcomes, patient satisfaction, and healthcare spending.^{3,4,5,6} Additionally, the midwifery model prioritizes continuity of care and strong partnerships between pregnant people and clinicians, both of these attributes promote attendance of prenatal and postpartum appointments, especially for patients who experience barriers to accessing healthcare. This bill will improve the ability of CPMs to provide continuity of care by allowing midwives to meet their patients' prescriptive needs, within their training and scope of practice.

By empowering CPMs to practice to their full scope, we can fully realize the enormous benefit of the midwifery workforce, while reducing strain on regional health systems. We urge you to pass H5858 in order to support childbearing families and the midwives who serve them in Rhode Island.

Respectfully,

Cassaundra Jah, executive director NACPM

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6. Nethery E, Schummers L, Levine A, Caughey AB, Souter V, Gordon W. Birth Outcomes for Planned Home and Licensed Freestanding Birth Center Births in Washington State. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2021 Nov 1;138(5):693-702. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000004578. PMID: 34619716; PMCID: PMC8522628.
7. Vasilevski, V., Graham, K., McKay, F., Dunn, M., Wright, M., Radelaar, E., ... & Sweet, L. (2024). Barriers and enablers to antenatal care attendance for women referred to social work services in a Victorian regional hospital: A qualitative descriptive study. *Women and Birth*, 37(2), 443-450.