

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

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: **Dominique Bellegarde**

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 **Dominique Bellegarde** 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.

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 **[it is important to serve the whole woman and her needs and decrease barriers to the health support she is requesting as she listens to her body so she can heal and serve her family and community verses going back and forth repeating her story to get services she deserves as it is her right to receive care of her choice. Safe space Safe ways to heal and decrease cortisol levels to be able to care for self, breastfeed and heal wounds internal and externally. This is my reason to support CPM PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY]** Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Instructions to submit written testimony: Email to HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov ** AS A PDF ** by 2 hours before the hearing start time on the date of the hearing- earlier is better!