

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

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Idalina Silva

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 **Idalina Silva** 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'm here today to advocate both personally and professionally for the passing of bill H5858. I believe the benefits it will offer patients, providers , community members and the healthcare system as a whole will be unmatched.

Born and raised in Cape Verde, at a young age I accompanied my grandmother who was a midwife to all the home births in our village, watching her provide total care for the mom and baby, was very special to me and has motivated me to pursue the same line of work. My grandmother didn't only deliver the baby, but she also made medication to help the mom with nausea with pain and to help her build her strength in order to provide for herself and the baby. This fueled me to strive to provide and mirror the same care and model.

Having the ability to prescribe essential medication as a certified midwife could improve the timeliness of care and patient outcomes. Simple but relevant factors that can be barriers to care: not being able to get a timely appointment with your provider , visiting a clinic or urgent care your unfamiliar with , finding a ride , taking the baby out of the home or finding someone to care for the baby while your at the appointment , all factors that can be addressed under this bill .

Our clients deserve the very best care and outcomes and bill H5858 will allow that , allow for moms , babies and families to receive patient centered care , ease of access , reduce costs and give practicing care providers autonomy . Allowing licensed care providers to practice to the fullest extent can reduce wasted resources through out the healthcare system freeing up resources and accessibility of other aspects of the health care system . It truly is a win/ win for our licensed care providers, moms, babies , family and the

community members we serve. I'm here as both a community member and care provider and I believe in the immense benefits of passing bill H5858.

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, deliver timely , patient centered, quality care and outcomes with ease of access at reduced costs. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.