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To: House Health and Human Services Committee
From: Lisa Gendron,
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 Lisa Gendron, Licensed Rhode Island Midwife and Certified Professional Midwife. I am 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.

As a Licensed Midwife I have been honored to care for the reproductive health of Rhode Island Residents and their babies and have been met with barriers to giving full scope of evidence based care due to restricted formulary. This puts a further burden on my colleagues in the RI Health Care system and also creates situations that limit my ability to stabilize clients while getting them to higher levels of care. I also have been limited in the care I can give clients, because I cannot accept Medicaid coverage to support those people in our community who need access to high quality, human centered care in the community setting.

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 Make care in RI safer and more comprehensive for those receiving care from a LM, CPM.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Gendron', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa Gendron, LM, CPM