

**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee

**From:** Susie Finnerty, CPD, CLC, MCHS

**Date:** March 12, 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 Susie Finnerty 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 had the privilege of having a licensed CPM take care of myself and my daughter during my third pregnancy. While my husband had a full time job with a salary and benefits, and I worked part time in order to save on childcare costs, we struggled to afford this care. Once we were able to secure that investment for my third pregnancy, I had to also seek out care with another provider at a community health center for tests and medications, such as nausea, that were part of basic prenatal care with my CPM. The extra time and appointments were a burden for me, as I was carrying a baby with two other small children who were not yet school age. As a community doula, I have also observed this with other families I have taken care of. Some have to wait months for appointments.

I have been in Rhode Island for 14 years, this is my home. I am from Washington and Oregon, where CPMs (who have the same level of skills and training) don't have these issues. It is time for Rhode Island to pass this important legislation so that we can as a state offer a high quality licensure for professionals and families who seek out that care. 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

  
Susie Finnerty