

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

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: EDOUARD ANTONIO LATORTUE

Date: March 13, 2025

Re: House Bill 5861 - Insurance Coverage of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today. Thank you to Representatives Stewart, Fogarty, McGaw, Cruz, and Casimiro for sponsoring this bill.

My name is Edouard Antonio Latortue and I'm writing in support of House Bill 5861. This bill requires insurance coverage of the services of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors.

Insurance coverage for Licensed CLCs' services will support me and my clients. I have been teaching lactation classes in order for my students to succeed and meet their lactation goals. Not being able to afford services may mean that they may stop breastfeeding/chestfeeding before they want to. I plan on pursuing a license as a CLC and I will be able to continue to support more community members.

I urge you to pass House Bill 5861 to require insurance coverage of the services of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors to improve Rhode Islanders' access to lactation support and improve health outcomes for birthing people and their children. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.