

Rhode Island General Assembly

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Emily Frank

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 Emily Frank and I'm writing in support of House Bill 5861. This bill requires insurance coverage of the services of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors.

As a Certified Perinatal Doula, I work with families all the time that struggle to meet their lactation goals and need support. However, not all of them have the income to pay out-of-pocket for lactation support when they have so many other new expenses to cover as a growing family. This bill would enable more families to get the support they need, boosting their confidence and satisfaction in early parenthood as they reach their goals.

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. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.