

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

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: EVAN SARGENT

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

Breast feeding is amazing and has so many benefits, and it can be hard. Lactation counselors are crucial and their services should be covered by all insurances. We need a larger workforce of lactation counselors and this bill will help with that.

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 help more women breast feed, who wish to. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.