

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Jenn Fantasia

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. I also want to thank Representatives Stewart, Fogarty, McGaw, Cruz, and Casimiro for sponsoring this bill.

My name is Jenn Fantasia, and I'm writing to support House Bill 5861. This bill requires insurance coverage for the services of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors.

As a mother who breastfed 3 children, the support I received from local Certified Lactation Counselors was instrumental in reaching my breastfeeding goals. They were able to come to my home and meet me where I was at. They helped with latching and reminded me of the norms of breastfeeding. They answered frantic texts when bumps in the journey happened. They were lifesavers in helping me to feed my children.

This legislation will help many other families feed their children and reach their breastfeeding goals. CLCs do a lot in our community, and licensure ensures they can be paid by insurance, making them even more accessible to all.

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.