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To: House Health and Human Services Committee
From: Lisa Gendron, RI LM, CPM
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 Lisa Gendron 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 Licensed Midwife in our state, I see the impact of the work of lactation professionals and have personally seen how Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors have increased our community's success with public health goals for successful breastfeeding, and also have positively impacted the health of breastfeeding parents and babies. Coverage for this care will massively impact the workforce and RI Mothers and babies for the better. If we are committed to the health of RI residents, passage of this bill is a tangible way to commit to this cause.

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 positively impact the health of RI babies and parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lisa Gendron', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Gendron, RI Licensed Midwife