

Steven Sepe

From: Alana Bibeau <alana.bibeau@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 10:03 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Support, House Bill 7275 Requiring Insurance Coverage of Certified Professional Midwives

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To: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

From: Alana Bibeau, Ph.D.

Date: February 2, 2026

Re: Support, House Bill 7275 Requiring Insurance Coverage of Certified Professional Midwives

Madame Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today. My name is Alana Bibeau and I'm writing in support of House Bill 7275. Thank you to House Representative Stewart and Representative Donovan, Boylan, Cotter, Caldwell, Fogarty, Cruz, Giraldo, Place and Kislak for co-sponsoring.

I support requiring insurance companies to cover Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) for well-woman/well-body care and out-of-hospital birth. CPMs play a crucial role in addressing health inequities in an overburdened system by providing culturally congruent, cost effective, and accessible out-of-hospital care and are trained and licensed to independently manage prenatal, pregnancy, and postpartum care, normal newborn care, and well-woman/well-body care, including the management of common health problems. Requiring insurance coverage for the services they provide is a no brainer.

After giving birth to my first child without complications in a hospital setting, I chose to birth my second child at home with CPMs because I wanted care that treated birth like a normal, physiologic process, and me as a whole person, not just a number. Throughout my pregnancy and birth, I was listened to, respected, and supported by experts. My midwives provided skilled, attentive care that allowed me to feel safe and cared for, and my out-of-hospital birth was a powerful and healthy experience for me, my baby, and our family.

CPMs also provide essential well-woman and preventive care that strengthens family health and reduces unnecessary interventions. Yet this care is often paid for out of pocket, making it inaccessible for far too many families. Insurance coverage for CPMs and out-of-hospital birth would expand access to high-quality, evidence-based care, support family autonomy, and improve outcomes. Families deserve the ability to choose the care that best supports their bodies and their lives.

I urge you to strongly support the passage of House Bill 7275 to ensure that all families in Rhode Island have access to insurance coverage for CPMs and to the safe and life-affirming healthcare I was fortunate to receive and am grateful for every day. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kind regards,
Alana Bibeau
Providence, RI