

Madame Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

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

I am a local birth doula in RI and have come across many families who would like to hire a CPM for their birth and have the ability to birth at home, but were not able to afford this care. I have attended both in-hospital and in-home births and fully believe that women should be able to choose where to deliver and who they would like their provider to be, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Having CPM's covered by insurance would equalize women's options during this very vulnerable and tender time of labor and delivery. Many more women are desiring to deliver their babies at home and there is a very big need for this to be fully covered by insurance in our state.

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 of CPMs and be able to choose their birth provider regardless of their income. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kindly,
Ashley