

To: Senate Health and Human Services

From Lisa Gendron LM, CPM

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 Lisa Gendron 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 have been a CPM since 2020 and a licensed midwife in the state of RI since 2021. I have seen the positive impact of midwifery care in our community as we worked in our community through the pandemic into the present moment. I have also watched maternal outcomes here and nationally decline to shameful levels. Access to quality care is imperative to improving these outcomes and research has shown expanded midwifery is an essential component. Please support this expansion through ensuring access through insurance reimbursement so that our most vulnerable and cherished mothers and babies can benefit from quality, attentive, holistic care.

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

expand the impact of quality healthcare and improve outcomes for RI birthing people and babies. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Gendron', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lisa Gendron

RI LM, CPM