

Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 7275: Requiring Insurance Coverage of Certified Professional Midwives
Rhode Island General Assembly,
Tuesday February 3, 2026

To the Rhode Island General Assembly,

My name is Preetilata Hashemi and I live in Providence, Rhode Island. I stand in strong support of House Bill 7275.

I am a community-based doula and certified lactation counselor in Providence. My primary goal is to make sure families of color are treated with dignity, which is too often not the case in this country and in our state's hospitals. I serve Black and Brown families through the perinatal period, to make sure they are informed, listened to, have access to the resources they need, and are able to advocate for themselves. Community midwives are an important partner in this.

I am also a certified maternal-child health specialist and a member of Rhode Island's Pregnancy and Postpartum Death Review Committee. We have a maternal mortality crisis in this country and in this state. Women of color, especially Black and Indigenous women, are dying or having near-misses during and after pregnancy due to preventable causes.

This bill is an important step in mitigating the maternal health crisis in our state and making sure families have options and dignity for their care. Community-based and community-led midwifery is critical for maternal and reproductive justice in our state.

In closing, I urge you to support House Bill 7275.

Sincerely,

Preetilata Hashemi