

**Written Testimony-Individual  
Rhode Island General Assembly**

**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee

**From:** Sarah Mead

**Date:** Feb 3, 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 Sarah Mead 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 Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) licensed in Rhode Island. I am writing in support of House Bill 7275, which would require insurance companies to cover CPM for well body care and out of hospital birth services that I provide. Currently my patients pay out of pocket for these services which include primary care during pregnancy, labor & home birth, postpartum, normal newborn for the first 6 weeks of life and well-body preventive care such as cervical screening and testing. This bill would improve access to the very personalized and high quality level of care my private practice provides to the insurance families of Rhode Island. This care also will contribute to closing the healthcare gap within this population.

House Bill 7275 would allow more Rhode Island families access to midwifery care. We know from the research that individualized midwifery care improves outcomes for our birthing population and lowers medical cost. We do this by working closely with the families prenatally to keep the pregnancy healthy and planning physiological community births the results in minimum interventions. The majority of our births also result in healthy term newborns who do not need access to the NICU and we fill the gap postpartum with care and support that keeps the mothers well mentally, physically and emotionally to care for their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I fully support the passage of House Bill 7275 and the positive impact it will have on women's health and healthcare equity.