

Template for Written Testimony-Individual
Rhode Island General Assembly

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Jacqueline Procopio, CLC, CPD

Date: February 3, 2025

Re: House Bill 7277 - Insurance Coverage of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today. Thank you, Representative Stewart for sponsoring and Representative Donovan, Boylan, Cotter, Caldwell, Fogarty, Cruz, Giraldo, and Place for co-sponsoring.

My name is Jacquie Procopio and I'm writing in support of House Bill 7277. This bill requires insurance coverage of the services of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors.

I am working in the community going home to home without being tied to a facility so I can meet the individual needs of a new parent who is body feeding their child. Research already demonstrates the importance of lactation support in the early days and weeks for continued success. The research also shows how it is a very healthy choice for both the baby and lactating parent.

Providing lactation support also allows me to be with a new parent and notice other struggles they may be having. A visit can also decrease the loneliness that new parents experience which in turn reduces emotional health struggles. Overall it is a cost savings for everyone involved.

We are the village that many new parents - especially lactating parents - do not have!

I implore you to pass House Bill 7277 to require insurance coverage of the services of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors to improve Rhode Islanders' access to lactation support and overall support for better maternal health. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thank you for understanding this need for better maternal health in our state.

Jacqueline Procopio, CLC, CPD

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