

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Amy Young Yozura <aimes10@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 9, 2026 10:51 AM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** In Support of H7272, H7626 & H8203

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Amy Yozura  
102 Warner Street  
Newport, RI 02840  
4/9/2026

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
State of Rhode Island  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: In Support for H7272, H7626 & H8203

Dear Chair and House Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Amy Yozura, I strongly support House Bill 7272, House Bill 7626 and Resolution 8203 all regarding the Birthing Center at Newport Hospital. I am a current Newport resident, living in this community for the past 15 years. For an island community like Aquidneck Island, having a local birthing center is not just a matter of convenience; it is a matter of public health, safety, and equity.

The birthing center is crucial for emergency services. When you are pregnant, labor does not follow a predictable timeline. Labor can progress quickly and it is not realistic for expectant mothers to have to travel 45 -60 minutes for birthing services. Bridge closures can happen anytime, and the effect could be dangerous and potentially deadly to an expectant mother requiring services.

Prenatal care and postnatal care are also at risk. I personally attended breastfeeding classes at Newport Hospital's birthing center after the birth of my son in 2016. These classes were vital to my postpartum success. Breast feeding does not just require one time instruction; it requires constant support for issues that can come up at any time during your journey. I experienced multiple cases of mastitis, and the support I received from the classes gave me the knowledge to understand how to handle the issue and when to reach out for vital medical intervention

Access to local maternity care is a fundamental component of public health infrastructure. I strongly and respectfully urge passage of these bills!

Sincerely,

*Amy Yozura*

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