

April 5, 2026

Subject: Support for H8203, H7272, and H7626 – Protect Newport's Birthing Center

Dear Chair and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

The time to act is now.

I am writing to urge your strong support for H8203, H7272, and H7626 to protect access to safe, local, and equitable maternal health care in Rhode Island, particularly the Newport Hospital Birthing Center.

The potential loss of the Newport Birthing Center would create a significant barrier to care for families in the region, forcing expectant mothers to travel farther distances during one of the most critical and vulnerable times in their lives. Access to local maternity services is not a luxury, it is essential to the health, safety, and well-being of mothers, infants, and families.

H8203 ensures accountability by tying state funding to the continued operation of a birthing center in Newport. H7272 establishes necessary transparency and oversight before any closure or reduction in services can occur. H7626 takes an important step forward by advancing a comprehensive, statewide approach to improving maternal health outcomes and addressing disparities.

Together, these bills represent a thoughtful and urgent response to a growing maternal health crisis. They prioritize access, equity, and responsible decision-making in our healthcare system.

I respectfully ask you to support these critical pieces of legislation and stand with Rhode Island families by protecting access to maternal health services in Newport and across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Colleen S. Loveless