

Steven Sepe

From: Kristin da Costa <dacosta.kristin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2026 2:16 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of H8203, H7272, and H7626 – Newport Hospital Birthing Center

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Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Kristin, and I am writing in strong support of H8203, H7272, and H7626 to help ensure that a birthing center remains open in the city of Newport.

I gave birth to my daughter, Isla, at the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center at Newport Hospital on March 19th of this year. My labor lasted more than 60 hours, and I ultimately pushed for two hours before delivering my daughter. It was one of the most physically and emotionally demanding experiences of my life.

Throughout my labor and postpartum recovery, the nurses and staff at the birthing center were exceptional. They consistently advocated for my comfort, health, and safety during an incredibly vulnerable time. Their compassion, patience, and professionalism helped me feel supported during what could otherwise have been a frightening and overwhelming experience.

What stood out most was not just their clinical skill, but the way they treated us as people. They took the time to explain what was happening, helped me stay calm when things felt difficult, and made sure my voice was heard during my care. They celebrated the birth of our daughter with us and helped us feel more confident as we began our journey as a family of three.

The Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center is a vital resource for the women and families of Newport County. Having access to safe, high-quality maternity care close to home is essential, especially during labor when time, safety, and proximity to care matter so much.

Birth is one of the most important moments in a family's life. The care provided at the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center ensured that my daughter entered the world in a place that was safe, compassionate, and deeply supportive.

Closing this birthing center would mean losing an extraordinary team and an essential resource for families on Aquidneck Island and in the surrounding communities. My experience shows how vital this care is. I urge you to support these bills and help ensure that families in our region continue to have access to safe, local maternity care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristin da Costa
Bristol, RI