

Steven Sepe

From: Brooke Cure <brookelindahob@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 10:20 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Statement of Support for Rhode Island H-8203, H-7272 & H-7627

You don't often get email from brookelindahob@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan

Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Brooke Cure, and I am a resident of Newport, Rhode Island. I am also a mother of two young boys, both of whom were born at the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center—most recently in March 2026. I am writing in strong support of H-8203, H-7272, and H-7627. The passage of these bills is critical to protecting maternal healthcare and ensuring the safety of expecting mothers and babies across Rhode Island, including those who live here and those who visit our state.

When I first learned of the potential closure of the Birthing Center, I co-founded the advocacy group Moms Over Margins alongside another local mother, Cassie Voll. We knew immediate action was necessary. Since then, our grassroots efforts have grown rapidly—we have organized a march and rally, hosted community meetings, contributed to reports, joined a broader coalition, and mobilized hundreds of voices in support of preserving this essential resource. The overwhelming community response—despite ongoing concerns about limited communication and transparency from Brown University Health—has been both powerful and deeply motivating.

The passage of H-8203 and H-7272 would establish much-needed accountability and transparency for Brown Health. While I was encouraged by recent statements indicating an intention to keep the Birthing Center open, the months following the initial July announcement have left the community with significant uncertainty. Confidence in the organization has been shaken, and these bills represent a meaningful step toward rebuilding trust. The future of the Birthing Center is currently contingent upon securing nearly \$5 million in annual state and philanthropic funding, yet no clear or publicly available plan outlines how these funds will be used.

The Birthing Center provides a safe, trusted, and high-quality environment for families. While I can personally speak to two exceptional experiences, our organization has also gathered hundreds of testimonials and survey responses that echo the same sentiment. These stories span a diverse range of families—those with multiple children, high-risk pregnancies, varied racial and ethnic backgrounds, and even those who have experienced difficult outcomes. The consistent praise, along with the Center's strong safety record and accolades, underscores its vital role in our healthcare system.

I urge you to pass H-8203, H-7272, and H-7627 to help ensure the future of the Birthing Center at Newport Hospital. This facility is not only distinguished by the quality of care it provides, but it is also essential to the safety and well-being of those living on Aquidneck Island and in surrounding communities.

Please stand with us on the right side of history and take action to protect maternal healthcare in Rhode Island. Please help us put people over profits.

Sincerely,
Brooke Cure
Co-Founder, Moms Over Margins