

To: RI House Health Committee  
From: Sara, RI  
RE: Support for [H8203](#) [H8203](#) [H8203](#)

My name is Sara and I am a resident of Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island. In 2000, at the age of 37, I gave birth to my first child at the Newport Birthing Center. Although I was in labor for more than 12 hours, I was cared for in a beautiful, light-filled birthing room by an extraordinary nursing staff. That experience has stayed with me ever since.

After my daughter was born, I was able to remain in the same room for my recovery, with my husband by my side every step of the way. Exhausted from labor, I lay resting with my newborn beside me when my husband noticed something was wrong—our baby girl was turning blue. He immediately called for help, and within seconds, the nursing staff rushed in. They quickly brought her to the NICU, conveniently located on the same floor, while allowing my husband to stay with her the entire time. We later learned she had a condition affecting her blood flow. Thankfully, within hours, she was stable and back in my arms—healthy, safe, and sound. What could have been a devastating moment was handled with urgency, expertise, and compassion.

Another incredible service offered by the Birthing Center was its lactation support group. Just one day after giving birth, I found myself surrounded by other new mothers and their babies, listening to shared experiences and receiving guidance from a certified lactation specialist. We were reassured that we could return at any time after discharge. I did exactly that—just two days later—overwhelmed with the fears and uncertainty of being a first-time mom. I was met with nothing but warmth, encouragement, and zero judgment. It made all the difference.

Two years later, I returned to the Newport Birthing Center to deliver my second child. Once again, the experience was exceptional. The spacious birthing room allowed my husband, my mother, and even my first daughter to be present, making it a truly shared and meaningful family moment.

None of these experiences would have been possible without the Newport Birthing Center. It is a place of care, safety, and community, one that holds immeasurable value for families like mine. This is an incredibly special resource that must be preserved and allowed to continue serving our community.