

**Written Testimony-Individual
Rhode Island General Assembly**

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Jacqueline Procopio

Date: May 5, 2026

Re: House Bill 7277 - Insurance Coverage of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today. Thank you, Representative Stewart for sponsoring and Representative Donovan, Boylan, Cotter, Caldwell, Fogarty, Cruz, Giraldo, and Place for co-sponsoring.

My name is Jacqueline Procopio and I'm writing in support of House Bill 7277. This bill requires insurance coverage of the services of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors.

It is very simple as a CLC to understand the additional support for lactation in the community contributes to better outcomes for breastfeeding and emotional health. Birth parents were never meant to be alone and without support. Having a CLC is having someone in the space with knowledge and the positive energy to support the breastfeeding parent. So yes, we are there to help a breastfeeding parent to meet their goals and to not feel like they are struggling alone.

The fact that we are working in the community and making home visits results in faster support and less excessive travel to the new parent-baby dyad which causes additional stress. It is difficult to heal from birth when outside of the home appointments consume the days. Less stress results in better breastfeeding outcomes, and better physical and emotional health. THIS is cost effective for insurance companies!

I urge you to pass House Bill 7277 to require insurance coverage of the services of Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors to improve Rhode Islanders' access to lactation support and accessible health all around. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thank You!

Jacqueline Procopio, CPD, CLC, CPBHC