



Memo To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Angela Lima, Chief of Government Relations, Women's Fund of Rhode Island

Date: May 4, 2026

Concerns: **SUPPORT FOR S-2383 Insurance Coverage for Licensed Certified Lactation Counselors**

We at the Women's Fund of Rhode Island support S-2383 which requires insurances to cover licensed certified lactation consultants for their services

All women and our non-gender conforming population deserve healthcare which is safe, effective, timely, efficient and equitable. Consistent and equitable access to maternity care helps women maintain optimal health as well as reduce the risk of experiencing complications during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

1. Financial Accessibility:

No or Low Out-of-Pocket Costs:

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), most insurance plans are required to cover breastfeeding support, counseling, and equipment, including lactation consultant services, without cost-sharing (copays, coinsurance, or deductibles).

Reduced Financial Strain: This means mothers can access expert help without worrying about the high costs of lactation consultations, which can be a significant barrier for some families.

2. Improved Breastfeeding Outcomes:

Expert Guidance and Support:

Lactation consultants provide personalized support and guidance to help mothers overcome breastfeeding challenges and achieve their breastfeeding goals.

Increased Breastfeeding Success:

With access to expert help, mothers are more likely to successfully breastfeed for the recommended duration, which has numerous benefits for both mother and child.

Preventative Care:

Lactation consultations are considered a preventative health service, meaning that they are designed to help prevent breastfeeding problems from arising in the first place and can monitor issues related to postpartum depression

3. Increased Access to Care:

Finding In-Network Consultants:

Many insurance plans have a network of in-network lactation consultants, making it easier for mothers to find qualified professionals who accept their insurance.

Prenatal Support:

Many insurance plans also cover prenatal lactation consultations, allowing mothers to prepare for breastfeeding before their baby is born.

The mission of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island is to invest in women and girls through advocacy, research, and strategic partnership designed to achieve gender equity through systemic change. Our [Women's Well-Being Index](#) compares how well women fare against men on topics related to health, safety, economic security, education and civic participation in every RI city/town. Our [policy briefs](#) are written in response to the data found on the Index. You can find more about our work at www.wfri.org.