

Steven Sepe

From: Isabel Mattia <isabelmattia@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 5:39 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.; Rep. Ackerman, Mia A.; Rep. Azzinaro, Samuel A.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.; Rep. Fenton-Fung, Barbara Ann; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Handy, Arthur; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep. Stewart, Jennifer A.; Susie Finnerty
Subject: I support bill H7882

Hello I am writing in support of bill H7882

I am a former CLC, (and planning to recertify and rejoin the workforce soon) and I am writing in support of House Bill 7882, which updates the "Lactation Consultant Practice Act of 2014" to recognize the CLC and ALC certifications as professional lactation support roles eligible for licensure.

RI has lower breast/bodyfeeding rates than the national average, both when it comes to initiating breast/bodyfeeding and sustaining it for the recommended duration of time. **WE NEED MORE LACTATION SUPPORT IN RI. A LOT MORE!**

The number one reason people don't initiate or stop breast/bodyfeeding is lack of support.

CLCs are trained and certified to provide a broad range of lactation support, and have a scope of practice, if an issue arises that is out of our scope we refer to a different provider who can address it.

Because CLCs don't need a nursing or clinical background, this certification allows people with other kinds of valuable expertise, such as doulas, WIC peer counselors, and community health workers to join the professional lactation support community.

This increases diversity of providers, and also diversity of where clients can access support. (because CLCs and ALCs tend to mostly work outside of clinical settings)

This bill would help to grow, broaden, and diversify our much needed lactation support workforce in RI, which will increase access to support.

I urge you to approve Bill 7882 with recommendation of passage. This support will do so much good for RI families and especially babies.

Sincerely,
Isabel Mattia (former) CLC