



RI Department of Health  
Three Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5097

March 12, 2024

TTY: 771  
[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H 7882 – An Act Relation to Health and Safety -- Lactation Consultant Practice Act of 2014**

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter of conceptual support for H 7882 that would specify the requirements and procedures for licensing Lactation Counselors as well as the renewal, expiration, termination, refusal, revocation, and suspension of licenses. H 7882 would take effect upon passage.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) recognizes the value of Lactation Counselors as they provide non-clinical breastfeeding counseling services to many culturally diverse families and help to reduce breastfeeding disparities. RIDOH applauds the intent of H 7882, which is to recognize the Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) certification designation. The bill would also recognize Advanced Lactation Consultant (ALC) certification for Lactation Consultants.

However, since Lactation Counselors and Lactation Consultants each have their own unique and specialized education and experience requirements, RIDOH would like to work closely with the Sponsors to work on proposed amendments to H 7882 that would establish a new Chapter in the Rhode Island General Laws that would be dedicated solely to the licensure of Lactation Counselors. RIDOH suggests that *The Lactation Counselor Practice Act* be enumerated in R.I.G.L § 23-13.6.1. The *Lactation Consultant Act of 2014* would remain in the R.I.G.L §23-13.6.

The establishment of a new Chapter for licensing Lactation Counselors will prevent confusion between the two professions and provide each one with the unique individual focus that each one deserves. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Utpala Bandy" with a flourish and the word "for" written below it.

Utpala Bandy, MD, MPH  
Interim Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Brianna E. Henries  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy