**Template for Written Testimony-Organization**

**Rhode Island General Assembly**

***Notes: Use agency logo and digital letterhead if you have it. Save your testimony as a PDF and submit via email. We recommend trying to get testimony emailed at least 2 hours before the hearing time or by 3pm if the hearing is at the Rise, but any time before or even after the hearing is appreciated!***

**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee

**From:** **Your name, your title, your organization (or just your name if you are testifying personally as a parent, teacher, etc.)**

**Date:** **March 13, 2025**

**Re:** House Bill 5858 - Prescriptive Authority for Certified Professional Midwives

**NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION** is one of **XX** organizations represented in the Coalition to Improve RI Maternal Care advocating to pass House Bill 5858. The coalition is dedicated to promoting better maternal health care, including allowing Certified Professional Midwives to prescribe medications consistent with the scope of their practice.

Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) and Licensed Midwives (LMs) are trained and licensed individuals who can independently manage prenatal, pregnancy, and postpartum care, normal newborn care, and well-woman/ well-body care, including the management of common health problems. They can provide routine physical screenings like pap smears and annual bloodwork to people who are not pregnant, as well. They practice primarily in an out-of-hospital setting (birth centers or homes) and focus on low-risk, physiologically normal birth.

Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia have a path to licensure for CPMs. Licensed Midwife (LM) is a state certification, while Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) is a national certification. Offering culturally congruent, dignified, and respectful care, according to the scope of practice for CPMs, delivered in the safety of patients’ homes, supported by the growing workforce of Certified Professional Midwives is part of the Rhode Island Maternal Health Task Force’s Strategic Plan and can help to improve maternity care in our state.

This bill establishes the scope of CPMs’ practice and authority relating to prescribing medication for their patients and will allow the potential of this growing workforce to be fully realized. This will enable CPMs to independently care for their patients in alignment with their training and knowledge, offering person-centered appropriate care.

[INSERT A FEW SENTENCES ABOUT HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS RHODE ISLANDERS, PARTICULARLY PREGNANT AND BIRTHING RHODE ISLANDERS OR A PERSONAL STORY ABOUT HOW THIS BILL WOULD BENEFIT YOUR PATIENTS OR CLIENTS. *NOTES/TIPS*: Provide details on how these policy changes will impact the families you serve. If you have any stories (**stories are powerful**) of how midwifery services have helped your program participants or community members and how CPMs’ prescriptive ability would or has helped individuals you work with or touch on the points above, please do so. For example, being able to provide medication for a routine illness or condition (i.e., smoking cessation) or an immunization so the patient did not have to find a primary care provider and make a separate appointment or wait for an appointment when it would take several weeks.

If you have a relevant photo or graph/chart, include it since those catch legislators’ eyes. A picture is worth a thousand words]

**NAME OF ORGANIZATION** strongly supports House Bill 5858 and urges passage. With your leadership, we can improve health equity and improve the maternal health landscape in Rhode Island. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

***NOTE:* Submit this written testimony to** [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)  **\*\*AS A PDF\*\***