**Template for Written Testimony**

**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:** Senate 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:** **Date of hearing**

**Re:** Support for Senate Bill 479- Insurance Coverage of Certified Professional Midwives

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. **NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION** is one of **XX** organizations represented in the Coalition to Improve RI Maternal Care advocating to pass Senate Bill 479. We would like to thank Senator Mack for sponsoring and Senators Vargas, Kallman, Murray, Lauria, Acosta, Urso, Valverde, Quezada, DiMario, and Ujifusa for co-sponsoring. The coalition is dedicated to promoting better maternal health care, including expanding access to licensed Certified Professional Midwives.

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, 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.

**NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION** supports Rhode Islanders, particularly pregnant and birthing Rhode Islanders **[with/through]** (**list relevant info, like education, research or wrap around services**). I’ve seen **[personal or organizational story about how insurance coverage of CPMs will improve maternal care in the state, more families will be able to get respectful/dignified care, etc.].** With your leadership, we can improve health equity and access for pregnant and birthing individuals in Rhode Island. I’m urging you to help improve the maternal health landscape in Rhode Island by supporting SB0479 that will **[do XYZ…ADD ANYTHING THAT IS MORE RELEVANT TO THE WORK THAT YOU DO HERE - DO NOT USE BULLETS OR NUMBERED LISTS]**

*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 CPM coverage would or has helped individuals you work with or touch on the points above, please do so.

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 Senate Bill 0479. We urge you to support expanding Rhode Islanders’ access to the providers of their choice for their healthcare. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

***NOTE:* Submit this written testimony to** **Slegislature@rilegislature.gov** **\*\*AS A PDF\*\***