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Re: Letter of Support for Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia, Inc. to pursue breastfeeding licensure and reimbursement for Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultants (“IBCLC”s) in the State of Georgia

To Whom It May Concern:

The mission of the United States Lactation Consultant Association Licensure and Reimbursement Committee is to fully integrate International Board Certified Lactation Consultants into the United States healthcare system in order to provide consumer protection and ensure skilled clinical lactation services are available and provided equitably.

Our rationale is that:

1. Licensure will provide consumers, health care providers, insurance personnel and employers with the ability to identify qualified lactation consultants.
2. Licensure will provide a means of standardizing practice and maintaining sound oversight of lactation professionals.
3. Reimbursement within the health care system will ensure access to timely, skilled, competent and culturally relevant breastfeeding support for all mothers and babies.
4. Reimbursement for services will positively impact the growth of the profession of lactation consulting creating adequate numbers of IBCLCs needed to meet current and future needs.

We are pleased that Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies of Georgia is working to facilitate, advocate and work towards the licensure and reimbursement of for Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultants in Georgia in support of the mission and rationale stated above. We appreciate your commitment to “support increasing the public's access to appropriately trained, credentialed and licensed lactation consultants in order to protect the consumer, with the ultimate goal of improving breastfeeding success rates in Georgia.” We look forward to working with you, through our member, Leah Aldridge, JD, IBCLC, RLC to achieve our common goals.

Thank you for your work on behalf of for Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultants and the United States Lactation Consultant Association!

Sincerely

Marsha Walker, RN, IBCLC
United States Lactation Consultant Association

Judith L. Gutowski, BA, IBCLC
United States Lactation Consultant Association