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Senator Reynolds, members of the committee, my name is Angie Fitzpatrick. I represent Baby Blues Connection and am here in support of Senate bills 692 and 693.

I've been with this organization for 19 years. We've supported over 10,000 mothers who are coping with perinatal mood and anxiety disorders over the past 10 years, helping them navigate the darkest and most difficult days of the postpartum period - which extends past the 1st year.

We are there for mothers who are anxious, exhausted, and desperate for relief. Who are isolated and ashamed of the thoughts running through their heads—the kind of thoughts that no one wants to admit and come from a complete lack of support during this time.

And I know this experience firsthand, because it was my story too. So many of us struggle during this time. We feel frustrated, alone, and overwhelmed. We need to normalize their experiences, support them with the care they deserve, and change the current reality.

My organization runs mostly on volunteer labor, but that's not sustainable. We cannot continue to provide free emotional labor, to give time and expertise without pay. I urge you to pass this bill, because we need innovative systems that support our mothers, fathers, and families.

This bill you're looking at has the power to help us build a robust workforce of professionals trained to meet the real, complex needs of families. A one size fits all model isn't realistic. We need trained doulas and community health workers. The answers must also lean into organizations, like mine, nonprofits that provide peer based support. There are many ways to raise a family and the model developed should embrace those complexities. Without healthy mothers, we cannot raise thriving children.

I urge you to vote YES on [SB 692](#) and [SB 693](#)
Thank you.