

**Licensure of International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs):
Summary for Physicians**

SENATE BILL 763: SUPPORT LICENSURE OF THE IBCLC

**IBCLCS are collaborative members of the healthcare team whose professional Code of Conduct and Scope of Practice require *accurate documentation and reporting* to the primary healthcare provider.[[1]](#endnote-1)**

**We propose inclusion of documentation and reporting requirements from the IBLCE into the Nursing Board regulations for lactation consultants.**

**IBCLC licensure will increase access to the most qualified and vetted lactation care providers.[[2]](#endnote-2)**



Poor duration rates signify the need for lactation support.[[3]](#endnote-3)

Breastfeeding families want and need professional lactation support as a standard of care in hospitals and after discharge.[[4]](#endnote-4)

IBCLCs offer evidence-based clinical lactation care to enable successful breastfeeding, fulfilling a public health imperative.[[5]](#endnote-5)

Figure 1 CDC Breastfeeding Report Card

**IBCLCs can provide a valuable service for physicians, enhancing primary care services in the medical home.**

* Licensure supports the integration of the IBCLC into a standard healthcare practice to *prevent harm* from poor feeding to *safely* maintain exclusive breastfeeding and to extend any breastfeeding.*[[6]](#endnote-6)*
* IBCLCs work collaboratively with physicians in hospitals, physician offices, clinics, private practices, WIC and public health settings and are required to document and report to the primary care providers.[[7]](#endnote-7)
* IBCLCs do not encroach on the scope of practice of physicians, nurses, midwives or any other licensed healthcare provider.[[8]](#endnote-8)
* Licensure of IBCLCs will enable physicians to direct-bill for lactation care in their offices, saving physician time and increasing profitability while improving patient satisfaction.[[9]](#endnote-9)
* IBCLC care may reduce sick visits, especially for feeding difficulties, thereby supporting capitation limits and facilitating the goals of high quality, cost-effective healthcare.[[10]](#endnote-10)
* Licensure by the state will identify a highly qualified lactation professional[[11]](#endnote-11) to alleviate physician concerns regarding negligent referral.[[12]](#endnote-12)
* State licensure meets insurer criteria and government regulations for provider credentialing. [[13]](#endnote-13)
* Third-party reimbursement facilitates racial and socioeconomic healthcare equity.[[14]](#endnote-14)

**Breastfeeding problems persist and result in weaning without lactation care**

✔ 80% of PA mothers want to breastfeed.[[15]](#endnote-15)

✔ 71% of mothers’ experience breastfeeding problems during their hospital stay.[[16]](#endnote-16)

✔ 92% of first-time mothers and 83% of ALL mothers have problems in the week after hospital discharge.[[17]](#endnote-17)

✔ 60% of mothers wean before meeting their own goals.[[18]](#endnote-18)

✔ Mothers without knowledgeable lactation support wean before they plan, depriving themselves and their

 babies of the health benefits of breastfeeding and risking postpartum depression[[19]](#endnote-19).



Figure 2 Erin A. Wagner et al. Pediatrics 2013;13: e865-e875 ©2013 by American Academy of Pediatrics

Just a few contacts with an IBCLC **triples** the likelihood of breastfeeding at one year.[[20]](#endnote-20)

**Efficacy of the IBCLC to improve breastfeeding initiation, intensity and duration is established by over 40 studies available at: http://tinyurl.com/IBCLCefficacy**

**Licensure of the IBCLC within the Pennsylvania Nursing Board ensures rigorous preparation[[21]](#endnote-21) for professional and clinical lactation care, assured communication with the primary care team, and state oversight.**

**INTERNATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED LACTATION CONSULTANT**

**SUPERIOR TRAINING, EDUCATION, EXPERTISE**

These prerequisites are the most stringent in the lactation field.

* 90 hours of breastfeeding-specific education
* 14 college level health science courses
* 300-1000 clinical practice hours
* rigorous exam

**UNIQUE APPROACH TO COMPLEX PROBLEMS**

* evidence-based care
* prevent harm from inadequate feeding
* safe, individualized services

**EMPOWERING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE THEIR BREASTFEEDING GOALS**

Women have similar breastfeeding goals, but experience diverse hurdles.

For more information, please contact:

**Healthy Keystone**

 **Kids Initiative**

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