

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION

OF THE

COUNCIL

No.2026-20

*Supporting Maternal Healthcare and the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center
at Newport Hospital*

WHEREAS, Healthcare providers across the State, including Brown Health, are facing substantial budget shortfalls that are requiring the consideration of cuts to programs and services; AND

WHEREAS, Newport Hospital is part of Brown Health, and has served as a cornerstone of healthcare for the residents of Newport and the greater Aquidneck Island community for over a century; AND

WHEREAS, the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center (“Birthing Center”) at Newport Hospital provides essential maternal and newborn care to families in Newport County and surrounding areas; AND

WHEREAS, access to local obstetric and maternal healthcare is critical for ensuring safe pregnancies, timely deliveries, and reducing maternal and infant health risks. Maintaining local birthing services aligns with the principles of equitable healthcare access, community wellness, and public health best practices; AND

WHEREAS, thousands of Newport residents have expressed their support, including through the organizing efforts of “Moms over Margins” and other community leaders; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Newport requests that the City Administration work with its Government Relations team to support efforts by the General Assembly and State lawmakers to maintain operations at the Birthing Center; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that these efforts include supporting related bills introduced by members of Newport’s State House delegation, including House Bill H-7272 and Senate Bill S-2380, which are intended to help ensure the maintenance and improvement of maternal care; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island General Assembly.

XAY KHAMSYVORAVONG
STEPHANIE SMYTH
DAVID R. CARLIN, III
LYNN UNDERWOOD CEGLIE
ELLEN PINNOCK

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
FEBRUARY 11, 2026


LAURA C. SWISTAK, CMC
CITY CLERK