Dear Human Resources at UNC Rex.

It has come to the attention of local lactation providers in the Triangle and the greater piedmont area that UNC Rex requires that IBCLCs (Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultants) hold the additional license of Registered Nurse. We value UNC's work to become more equitable and inclusive. Thank you for being willing to hear concerns and ensure leadership hears them too. As UNC Rex works to become a more equitable space for the community, we ask that the current policy be reconsidered. Requiring a concurrent RN license to perform IBCLC duties continues patterns of structural and institutional racism.

Breastfeeding is considered the "great equalizer," providing infants with life-long better health outcomes as well as improving health outcomes for parents who human-milk-feed. The inequities that affect Black and Brown community-members in other health outcome measures, are also found in breastfeeding outcomes. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations for exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life are not attained by the majority of families, especially Black and Brown families. The long history of slavery, settler colonization, criminalization of midwives, and further historical trauma have certainly affected breastfeeding rates in the present; however, current practices such as UNC Rex's education requirements only perpetuate the inequities.

Unequal access to higher education has led to disparities in who provides care in our community. 80% of RNs in North Carolina are white. Only 8% of NC RNs are Black¹. We live in a city where 38% of the population is Black and 13% is Latinx. Unreasonably restrictive and expensive requirements for the IBCLC certification have led to similar statistics in the lactation profession. 90% of IBCLCs are white². As Tamar Ringel-Kulka, MD, MPH notes in her 2011 study³ Black Durham parents cite bias from healthcare professionals and culturally incongruous care as affecting breastfeeding outcomes. Hiring Black⁴ and Latinx lactation providers is of utmost importance to decreasing inequities in breastfeeding outcomes in the Triangle.

Many hospitals in the area are utilizing more equitable hiring practices. Hospitals that don't require an RN license for IBCLCs include other hospitals within the UNC System-most notably UNC-CH. Neighboring Novant Health, Cone Health, and Atrium are others to name a few. Just this week after receiving feedback from the community, Duke Health has formally changed their requirements to be in line with best practice and to promote equity within the institution. We hope that UNC Rex will consider revising the current hiring policy to align with other leaders⁵ in healthcare across the state.

We look forward to continuing to work together to support families in the community. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any concerns or questions. Thank you.

Sincerely.

Members of the Triangle Community

Signature to the Letter	Additional Information
Breastfeed Durham	A volunteer driven advocacy group. We advocate for policies and practices that support breastfeeding, chestfeeding and human milk feeding in Durham.
Love Anderson	Breastfeed Durham Board Member, Parent and patient of Duke Health System
Bernadette Greene	Breastfeed Durham Board Member, Parent and patient of Duke Health System
Kathleen Anderson, MEd, CLC	Board member, Breastfeeding Family Friendly Communities
Rachel Lewis	Breastfeed Durham Board Member and parent advocate who birthed at Duke Hospitals
Gina Rose, RN, IBCLC	Breastfeed Durham Board Member
Hannah Edens, MPH, RD, IBCLC	
Leslie Stern CNM, IBCLC	Community lactation consultant in private practice & in network with Duke Aetna plans
Caitlin Georgas	Parent who birthed at Duke
Elley Schopler, RN, IBCLC	
Hannah Potter	Doula/community advocate, President of Health Care for All NC
NikkiLeeHealth	NikkiLeeHealth
Cynthia P. Freeman, IBCLC	
Hope Lima, PhD, RDN, LRD, IBCLC	Private practice lactation consultant
Leigh Ann Joel	CNM
Jennifer DeWolf, LLLI	Breastfeeding and birth advocate
Dennis DeWolf	Parent advocate for breastfeeding
Jasmine Johnson	
Jennifer Herrera	I had both children at Duke Regional, and IBCLCs are a crucial part of that experience for mom and baby

Paige Giguere	Parent advocate who gave birth at Duke
Nicole Crews	5
Jenna Horgan	Clinical Social Worker, Parent advocate
Ellen Chetwynd PhD MPH BSN IBCLC	As an advocate for breastfeeding parents at the state level with membership in multiple statewide efforts, I can assure those at Duke that this proposal is in alignment with state and national standardslevel I can
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Ste'Keira Shepperson	Birth and Postpartum Doula Agency Owner- Triangle Doulas of Color
Barbara M. Cameron	
Ann Conlon-Smith, IBCLC, Triangle	
Lactation, Raleigh	IBCLC since 1996, private practice and Pediatric offices
Cecilia Funakoshi-Rawls, BS, NDTR, IBCLC	Community Nutritionist/Lactation Consultant
Anne Canastar	I am a Durham resident who gave birth at Duke Regional.
Stephanie Iraggi	
Cierra Harris	Parent Advocate residing in Durham
Courtney Owens, Doula	Parent advocate who birth at Duke
Ashley Taylor Jacobs- birth and	
postpartum doula	IBCLC Student, Board members for MAAME, Inc
Joy Lampkin Foster, Racial Equity Advisor for Maternal Health Leaders at The Endayo Company	Doula, community advocate, parent
Tomeika Watson	Parent Advocate
Kiira M. Lyons, UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	
Briana Barksdale	
Stephanie Dawson, CBS, PCD(DONA)	
Michelle Merrill PhD	

Andrea Davis	Duke Patient
Joy Spencer, Equity Before Birth	Community Organizer, Parent Advocate who Birthed at Duke, Breastfeeding Mom of a Toddler, Member of: Think Babies NC Alliance, Born in Durham Healthy for Life and NC Families Care Coalition, Family Leader for the EarlyWell Initiative, Durham ECAP Team Member
Boy Opencer, Equity Belove Birth	
Vanessa M Safie	Doula and lactation counselor
Monica Bowman, Full Hearts Doula LLC	
	Dublic health professor and research Decial Equity arranges
 Stephanie Baker, PhD	Public health professor and research, Racial Equity organizer and trainer
Cate Elander	Durham County Early Childhood Coordinator, gave birth at Duke Regional and really benefited from the support of the lactation consultant
Alexandria Da Ponte	employee at Duke University
Miriam Ruchman, BS, MA, IBCLC	
Ashley Lucy	
Alicia Taylor	Doula and Infant Feeding Specialist
North Raleigh Doulas	Labor/Postpartum Doulas and Family Support Services
Shakita Royster Doula	Doula and advocating Mother
Anna Soloway, RN	
Tai Rochelle	Durham-Native, Mother, Breastfeeding Advocate
Amber Rodriguez, Student Midwife	I stand with our IBCLCs in serving BIPOC families. Please join other local area hospitals in dropping the RN requirement.
Emmy Eide, Equity Before Birth	
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Rachel Taylor	Parent who breastfeeds
Desirae Lewis, Medical Assistant	Parent Advocate and health care professional
Maxine Robinson, BS, CLC, IBCLC	Washington DC based african American lactation consultant
Tracy Williams Lenhardt	Certified Breastfeeding specialist, La Leche League Leader, future IBCLC
Kylee-Jean Wormuth MS RD LDN	Community member
Mattea Alexander IBCLC, MPH, CD(DONA)	Community lactation consultant
Nancy Walters	Parent advocate, vocal citizen
Carrie Lawrence Magnuson, La Leche League of Chapel Hill	I serve breastfeeding families in our community as a La Leche League Leader.
Briana Smith	Certified Doula
Kristine Paro Lincoln Community Health Center	WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator
Stephanie Cedeño	
Antonia Glover, Doula	I am a Doula
Kacy Harker, CD(DONA)	
Courtney Little, CD(DONA) , LCCE	
Jenny Cox	MSN, CNM, IBCLC
Anne Dillon	
Amy MacDonald CNM MSN	Founding Nurse midwife of Duke Midwifery Service
Portia McCullers	Community doula
Moira Griffin RN, IBCLC	
Eboni Allen	
Erika Queen, CLE	Candidate for IBCLC exam
Yanica Faustin	Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist
Nicole Wendelbo, COTA	

Melissa Neptune	Parent advocate who birthed at Duke, also a former employee.
Rachael Waldman Klayman	
Rebecca Costello, IBCLC MPH	Lactation consultant
Beth J Mann	Volunteer Doula, BSN Student
Lyric Harris	
Ellie Erickson	Pediatrician
Amber Barnes, MPH	
Shannon Jordan	certified professional midwife
Kathryn Godly, PA-C, IBCLC	owner of The Functional Medicine Center
Danielle Kennedy, MPH	Duke employee
Maya Jackson	MAAME, Inc. Founder and Executive Director, CAPPA CLE, and Milky Mommas, Inc. Breastfeeding Peer Support Counselor
Jacquana L. Smith, MPH, IBCLC	
Clayton Cooper, MD, MBA	Family Physician
Megan Hollander	
Andrea Rodriguez	Bilingual Families Advocate, Community Health Worker Coordinator
Kristina Boyd, RN, IBCLC	Hospital based IBCLC
Rachel Lauster	Certified lactation counselor
Kristian Smith	Parent advocate, healthcare administrator
Laura N Sinai MD MSCE FAAP	NC co-Breastfeeding Coordinator for the American Academy of Pediatrics
Corin Kane	parent who delivered at Duke and could have very much used a BIPOC lactation consultant

Jessica L. Johnson, MPH	Infant Mortality Reduction Program Manager at Alamance County Health Department
Alisha Bailey, IBCLC	WIC nutritionist & Community lactation consultant
Dr. Arlinda Ellison	Public Health Professional & Advocate
Milan Johnson, RN	Parent advocate who gave birth at Women's birth and wellness center in c/o doula, midwife, and RN
Natalie Tammen PA-C	Family Medicine provider
(Angie) Angela Hilliard IBCLC, CLE	Private Practice, Hospital Non-RN IBCLC, NonProfit Lactation Program Coordinator,
Victoria Lebrun, FHI 360	Community member
Jamie centers, durham resident.	
Lisa Parker	Public health professional
Alana Williams	Parent
Amy Wilson	Parent advocate with births at Duke
Caroline Freiermuth MD MHS	Mom who gave birth at Duke a regional and breastfed two kids, emergency physician who cares for moms snd babies who have difficulty with breastfeeding
Bethany Chappel	Parent advocate who gave birth at Duke & saw an IBCLC for feeding issues
Natalie Alvarez, MBA, MPH	Community lactation consultant
Andrea L. Fowler, JD	
Caroline Asher	
Carolina Clancy	Parent advocate who gave birth at Duke

Avery Guynn Parent who birthed at Duke and breastfed the help of a non RN IBCLC Maia Tellier IBCLC and Program Director of the North County of	for 14 months with
Jenna Crowther the help of a non RN IBCLC Maia Tellier IBCLC and Program Director of the North C	for 14 months with
IBCLC and Program Director of the North 0	
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Heather Hogan, DNP, CNM	
Jamilla Walker, MSN, CNM, IBCLC	
Laura Wooten, LCSW	
Jade Chiu	
Community Health Consultant, Supervisor Nedra Cox Educator @ Family Connects Guilford	& Certified Lactation
Melissa Portunato MPH, IBCLC	
Parent advocate, Reproductive Justice advorganizer, community lactation support, and nursing Mama to biracial Black children.	-
Jerilyn Free, Student, Future IBCLC I am also a certified birth doula working in the help birthing bodies. Member of Mahagony	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Kelli Raker Parent advocate who birthed at Duke	
Shanna Greene	
Maternal & child health public health profes mother Shenitta Evans, M.Ed	ssional and Durham
Onorma Evans, IVI.Eu	
Kanisha Brevard, PhD, MSW Researcher	

Emma Burress MPH	Human Lactation student at NCAT
Erin Clancy Weant	
Monique Mitchell, MBA	Current Lactation Pathway 2 student
Gillian Watson	Durham parent
Melodie Scarborough	African American Community Advocate
Tiffany A. Faison	
Toni Greene, BS	Former NC breastfeeding peer counselor
Juliet Thompson	Advisory Board Member for NC A&T SU Pathway II Lactation Program
Cierra Murphy-Higgs	P2 Lactation Student
Ivy M. Bagley MSN FNP-C IBCLC	
Megan Stauffer IBCLC	I am a non-RN IBCLC !
Sierra Bizzell	Executive Director of Faithfully Fertile Foundation and a certified lactation educator
Ally Albert	
Stephen Woolford	Homeless Shelter Provider
Tikara Cannon, MPH, CBS, Postpartum Doula - Milk & Cradle LLC	Community lactation consultant in private practice, also upcoming IBCLC candidate
Melissa Renteria, MPH	
Jamilla Howard	
Tenica Williams, MAAME, Inc	Volunteer doula with a non profit organization
Natalie Gwishiri	
Aidee Leon Lua, B.A.	
Donna Berkelhammer	
Jahmekya Hanson, MHA, La Leche League of Durham, La Leche League of Chapel Hill	La Leche League Leader - Durham and Chapel Hill
Sajdah Ali	MAAME Inc., Board Member
Cherise McManus, MAAME INC	
Andora Scraders-Pyatt, CD with MAAME	Doula who supported births at Duke Health
Alexis Bailey, MAAME, Inc.	Intern
Jessica Hope Murrell Berryman	Steering member MomsRising NC

Aubrey Delaney, MPH Jasmine Fleurizard, MAAME Inc Maria J Stransky Jennifer Dominguez, MD Jade Chiu Yolanda Mukombe	Parent who birthed at Duke NC lactation educator, breastfeeding coordinator at Durham County Department of Public Health, parent who birthed at Duke Board Member of MAAME Inc Obstetric Anesthesiologist Board Member of a nonprofit
Aubrey Delaney, MPH Jasmine Fleurizard, MAAME Inc Maria J Stransky Jennifer Dominguez, MD Jade Chiu Yolanda Mukombe	County Department of Public Health, parent who birthed at Duke Board Member of MAAME Inc Obstetric Anesthesiologist
Maria J Stransky Jennifer Dominguez, MD Jade Chiu Yolanda Mukombe	Obstetric Anesthesiologist
Jennifer Dominguez, MD Jade Chiu Yolanda Mukombe	<u> </u>
Jade Chiu Yolanda Mukombe	<u> </u>
Yolanda Mukombe	Board Member of a nonprofit
	Board Member of a nonprofit
Sarah Lorenz	
	Parent advocate who birth at Duke
	MRTTI Cohort 2021, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
Anne Klar, doula	
Stephanie Preston	LC student
Tori Hinde, RN, BSN	NICU nurse, DONA-trained birth doula
Adriana Parker	Full-Spectrum Doula and MPH Candidate
	Parent advocate who gave birth at Duke and was very dependent on lactation consultants
Amanda Riccio	Parent that decided to use UNC for more diverse lactation
Cheryl Miller	
Abena Bediako	MAAME, INC
Janelle Sturtz DC	Family Wellness Chiropractor
Nicole Gwishiri	Parent Advocate
Donnae Ward	Parent, Black Woman, Health Coach and Activist
Ashley Chewning	
Courtney Jones, RN.	
Angela Tatum Malloy, IBCLC, CD, CHW,	Founding President/CEO of the nonprofit clinic, Momma's Village, Clinical lactation program trainer, community private practice lactation consultant and grandmother of a breastfed grandchild who received care at Duke's Children Hospital where her care team placed her feeding care under my direction as a NON RN IBCLC and her grandmother.
	Birth and Postpartum Doula, Lactation Peer Counselor, Board member of a nonprofit organization.
Tamaya Franks	

	Community lactation consultant in private practice & in network
Leslie Stern CNM, IBCLC	with Duke Aetna plans
Latrece Spruill	Parent advocate
Brittany Healy	Doula, lactation counselor, community non-profit leader
Emily Esmaili, DO, MA	Community pediatrician
William Jackson	
Amber Nielsen, Death Doula	
Morgan Ray, MSW, Certified Birth Doula	
Joi owens	Enjoi Natural Body Products supports this movement for change.
Katy Bauer; CBD, PPICD	
Jennifer Wilkins	
Abigail Thomas, CD(DONA)	Triangle-area birth doula
Courtney Latta Sosebee, MPH	Parent advocate and public health professional who gave birth at Duke Regional Hospital
Emily Holmes RN IBCLC	Postpartum nurse and IBCLC at UNC
Kunmi walker RN, MPH	Parent advocate who birthed 2 babies at Duke
Maris Feeley, full-spectrum doula, Carolina Birth & Wellness	
Tiffany Slade, CLE, Doula, NT	WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, NC Lactation Educator, Private Practice
Sandra Arnold IBCLC	Community Breastfeeding Support Group
Ramona Higgins	Parent. I haven't birth at this location, but another in the area that doesn't have representation either.
Laura Gruber IBCLC-Breastfeeding Housecalls	Non-RN Private Practice, whose successful private practice would be nothing had my local health systems not given me the opportunity to work at them. Thanks to my experience in the hospital setting, I am able to not only support families post-NICU discharge, but am also able to identify conditions that lead to readmission, and prevent readmissions for families in my care. Hospital experience is essential to building robust experience in an IBCLC.
Nana Asante-Smith	
Randy Trice/Fatherhood of Durham N.C	Fatherhoodofdurham.org
Bailey Goldman, MPH	Public health practitioner
Courtney McLaughlin, CHW	Community Health Worker who provides support to birthers and their families.
Samathryn Witham, MA	Breastfeeding mother of 2

Kelly Cosby	Durham resident, lactated for 6 consecutive years & depended on lactation consultation
Kriss Deas, Mom of 2	I am a parent who birthed at Duke regional and used an excellent IBCLC who was not an RN (through the Birth and Wellness Center)
Zion Tankard, Executive Director La Leche League International	PAC 2
Danielle Caldwell	DCABP, Inc. Board Member
Danita King	Maternal Health Advocate
Cicely Owens	
Brittani Clark, Durham's Partnership for Children	Board member of Durham's Partnership for Children
Ronda Taylor Bullock, PhD	Black momma, anti-racist activist
Delvin Davis	Parent of 3 Black children, all birthed at Duke
Felipe Tendick-Matesanz	Public Health Scientist
Angela Marie Spencer	RN
Carolyn Avery	Durham pediatrician
Opal Horvat, BA, IBCLC	Private Practic / Home Visits
Ennis Baker, MSW, LCSW & my husband, Dennis Baker	Parent who gave birth at Duke Regional twice & early childhood mental.health professional
Michelle Davis BSN, RN, IBCLC	
Keshay Brown Breastfeeding peer counselor & Doula with Durham Volunteer Doulas	Lactation guru
Amber Crews	
Missy Currin RN MSN, Owner FIT4MOM Midtown Raleigh	Nurse Educator & Pre and Postnatal Fitness Instructor & Mom of 3
Turquoise LeJeune Parker	Media Coordinator and Racial and Social Justice Teacher, Vice President of the Durham Association of Educators and the National Education Association Director for North Carolina
Veronica L Fairley-Battle	New Mom, Parent Advocate
Stacey White	
Nicola Singletary, PhD, MAT, IBCLC	Community lactation consultant and professor
Tiffany Covas, MD, MPH	
Dr. Elliot Berger	PhD and Durham Parent of breastfed children

Beverly Gray, MD	
Karen Halpin, RN, BSN	
Paula Wright, RN, BSN	
Kathryn Wouk, PhD, IBCLC	Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute
Kelly Collins, CP-ICD	Birth & Postpartum Doula
Margot Stern, RN, BSN, CLC	
Teisha Lightbourne Douglass, MPH, RD, LDN, CNSC, IBCLC	
Anna Pabon	Parent Advocate
Abigail Thomas CD (DONA)	
Sandra Arnold, LCCE, IBCLC	

References:

- 1. NC Board of Nursing Licensure Statistics
- 2. <u>Lactation Care Provider Demographic Survey 2019 Data United States Lactation Consultant Association</u>
- Community based participatory research of breastfeeding disparities in African American women Infant Child Adolesc Nutr. 2011 Aug; 3(4): 233–239.
- Enhancing Breastfeeding Through Healthcare Support: Results from a Focus Group Study of African American Mothers Matern Child Health J. 2016;20(Suppl 1):92-102. doi:10.1007/s10995-016-2085-y
- 5. USLCA's letter supporting IBCLC as a stand-only credential:

 https://uslca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Support-for-IBCLC-as-a-Standalone-Credential.p

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