

Hello, my name is Keashia Opphile. I live in Ohio, with my husband, and our 6 children. I'm against the legislation that is before you today. Currently Ohio respects women's God given rights to birth how we want, where we want, and with WHO we want, including with traditional non-nurse midwives. There is no need for that to change. These women are experienced, respected, and sought after by Ohio Families! I will forever be thankful for my amazing midwife, her knowledge, her care, and her presence at my hbac (home birth after cesarean). I truly wish I would have known her sooner and had all my babies at home. I wish I could have been more educated in the past to know that twins could be born vaginally and didn't mean an automatic cesarian. But, I'm so thankful I found her for our last baby and didn't have to drive an hour in a half to Columbus for a vbac. Her care and her knowledge were truly a breath of fresh air. I never felt like just another number, just money walking in the door, didn't have to remind her of anything.... she genuinely cared!! We as women have a God given fundamental right to birth where we want, how we want, and with WHO we want. Women have been giving birth since the beginning of time. Birth is a normal biological process that doesn't require medical interventions most of the time. The news recently reported that there were more home births in 2021 than there had been in 30 years! That's because of all of the amazing midwives in Ohio! Why is this being targeted?! If women want to hire a nurse midwife... Let them. But, if we want to use a traditional midwife who isn't a nurse that's our right as well!!! There are many great midwives in Ohio and the opinion of a handful should not strip thousands of women out of our right to birth where we want, how we want, and with WHO we want!!! Ohio is great just the way it is! Why mess with a well oiled machine when there is nothing wrong with it?! I felt so safe and well cared for by my midwife, more so than I did my last obs office, I got to birth in the comfort of my own home with my husband and our children home, I got to follow my body and do what I needed to when I needed to, get into any position that felt comfortable, wasn't forced on my back, wasn't forced on a timeline.... It's proven interventions are far less likely when women are comfortable and relaxed... Where better to feel that way than at home if you choose♥ It is our responsibility as women and mothers to become educated and make decisions that feel best for ourselves and our families.... Ohio currently respects that.... Why change that?! It is estimated that over half of the legally practicing midwives in Ohio aren't nurses! So, if this legislation passes we lose more than half of the amazing midwives in Ohio?! Those midwives are highly experienced and trusted amongst the birthing women in Ohio. The Ohio nursing board has always objected to the practice of non nurse midwives in Ohio but, that should not be up to the government or any agency to decide! That should be up to Ohio Families! The Nursing Board would undoubtedly be overly restrictive for midwives and the families they serve! That's not ok. Ultimately, if in the unfortunate circumstances any licensure is passed for non-nurse midwives it should NOT be regulated under the Ohio Nursing Board! It is VITAL that Ohio Families maintain our RIGHTS to obtain any midwife of our choice for our private home births without government scrutiny, regulation, or interference! If this legislation passes it does NOT represent what hundreds of women in Ohio want! The government has no right to make this decision for us! Are you going to let the opinion of a handful of midwives take away the birth rights for hundreds of families?! Ohio stands for BIRTH FREEDOM!