

Representative Manchester and Committee Members,

Below is my WRITTEN TESTIMONY as an experienced, individual CNM, and an interested Party for House Sub Bill 496.

My name is Lucia Jenkusky and I am a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) with 22 years of clinical experience and 10 years in midwifery education. I currently practice in Columbus, Ohio providing clinical care at a Federally Qualified Health Center.

I am the Director of the Midwifery Program at The Ohio State University where we graduate Masters and Doctoral prepared Certified Nurse Midwives. I am also newly appointed to the Board of the American College of Nurse Midwives(ACNM) Ohio Affiliate.

I want to say **Thank You** for addressing many of the concerns Certified Nurse Midwives had in the original version of House Bill 496 within the sub bill.

I have the following remaining concerns.

1. The Midwifery Council: I am writing to respectfully request equal representation of CNM/CMs to CPMs on this council. There are currently 465 CNMs in Ohio and close to 14000 in the US. and only a little over 2300 CPMs in the US. As you are aware it is unknown exactly how many CPMs there are in Ohio but the BON estimate is around 100. I question the reason for the greater number of CPMs vs CM/CNMs on this midwifery council who will be responsible for recommending regulations and sanctions of all categories of midwives in our state. Please consider adjusting the numbers of CNM/CMs to equal or greater than CPMs on this council.
2. Safe out of hospital birth: I support home and birth center birth options provided by ALL licensed midwives. But I strongly oppose high risk deliveries being offered at home for all categories of midwives. The risks associated with breech, VBAC and twins delivered in the home are too great.
3. Reduced Board of Nursing Fees for licensure in the State of Ohio. Certified Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives are both certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB). They have the same core competencies and will be working in the same practice types. They have Masters or Doctoral degrees and salaries are equal. Therefore, the licensing fees for CNMs and CMs should be the same. Certified Professional Midwives are required to have a high school diploma and demonstrate competency in specified areas of knowledge and skills including a minimum of 55 births and 2 years. (see link below for the educational differences of CNMs, CMs and CPMs).
CPMs work in out of hospital settings and traditionally have a lower income due to the limited number of patients they see. I would support a reduced fee for this category of midwife.

<https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/ccLibraryFiles/FILENAME/00000006807/FINAL-ComparisonChart-Oct2017.pdf>

Thank you for your dedication to expanding midwifery services in the state of Ohio. I believe more Certified Nurse Midwives and Certified midwives are the answer to improving Ohio's poor maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates. I also believe CPM licensure is important in our state. Licensure with rules will protect moms and babies in our State.

I am available as a midwifery resource to you and your committee.

Lucia Jenkusky