

To whom it may concern:

I had the privilege of attending the birth of my niece. She was born at home with an unlicensed midwife. It was a blessing to be able to experience this in the comfort of a home. The midwife did a great job and everything went well. I appreciated the personalized care that was able to be given because of the ability to have one on one attention. I got to see birth as the natural event that it is and has inspired me to learn more and start a birth doula training course.

If this bill were to pass, the expertise of many unlicensed midwives who have been delivering babies for many years will no longer be able to legally impart their wisdom and assistance to any mother giving birth. As a potential future mother, this concerns me because it is taking away my freedom to choose what is best for my family. With this bill, it can lead to more casualties because of women, who choose to have an unassisted homebirth, will be unable to have the assistance of skilled midwives assisting them.

I understand that the advanced medical system we have does a wonderful job in the event that an emergency warrants it, but that is not every birth. Mothers bodies were naturally designed to give birth and without intervention in most cases. It is my plea that you do not allow this bill to pass. It grieves me to think that I could never experience a homebirth for myself if this would pass. I would ask that you take this in to consideration.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony!

Grace Steiner

Orrville, Ohio