

(Exhibit A)

COMMUNITY MIDWIVES OF OHIO

... representing midwifery in every community across Ohio

Community Midwives of Ohio, Board of Directors

Bobbi Boyd, CPM Barbara Lahey, CPM Freida Miller, CPM Monica Honeycutt, DEM Jerri McCoy, DEM Sarah Weaver, DEM Pamela D. Kolanz, DEM Melinda McCoy, CIM

Official Position on HB 496 and the Substitute Bill

Community Midwives of Ohio remain committed to legislatively supporting all types of practicing midwives in the State of Ohio and the rights of parents to choose a midwife they deem to best suit their personal home birth needs.

As such, we find that HB 496 and substitute bill has critical regulations that will not benefit midwifery in Ohio or the parents who need them and will, in fact, greatly hinder the service we are currently providing. The members of our Board of Directors have met with and had direct communication with the sponsor and co-sponsors of HB 496, along with many legislators of the Families, Aging and Human Services Committee and have communicated the detriment to our profession of aspects of this legislation.

Without amendment to the bill addressing all of the following key points, Community Midwives of Ohio is in high opposition of HB 496 and the substitute bill put forth:

- 1. HB 496 and substitute bill regulates/licenses non-nurse midwives under the Ohio Board of Nursing. This is a critical misstep for traditional community midwives of our state. Any legislation passed to license/regulate Certified Professional Midwives must occur under the Ohio Department of Health or other board dedicated to enhancing public access and safety.**
- 2. HB 496 and substitute bill criminalizes midwifery in Ohio and greatly interferes with the availability of midwifery in our state. Midwifery is currently not a criminal act and, in fact, is considered a legal profession in the Ohio Administrative Code for Religiously Exempt Birth Centers.**
- 3. HB 496 and substitute bill includes exemptions to the licensure requirement. In order to effectively codify this protective language, a non-severability clause must be added to the bill.**
- 4. HB 496 and substitute bill is a law that does not address a current problem in Ohio, but instead creates government over reach into a timeless profession that is safe, satisfying and old-as-time in the world.**

(Exhibit C)

Midwives Model of Care©

The Midwives Model of Care is based on the fact that pregnancy and birth are normal life processes. The Midwives Model of Care includes"

- monitoring the physical, psychological and social well-being of the mother throughout the childbearing cycle;
- providing the mother with individualized education, counseling, and prenatal care, continuous hands-on assistance during labor and delivery, and postpartum support;
- minimizing technological interventions; and
- identifying and referring women who require obstetrical attention.

The application of this woman-centered model of care has been proven to reduce the incidence of birth injury, trauma and cesarean section.

Exhibit C Regulatory Board

14%
5%

19%

3% 5% 5%

3%

22%

24%

Office of DEM Registration

Midwifery Board

Board/Department of Health

Board of Complementary/Alternative Healthcare Special Licensing/Professional Regulation Medical Board

Board of Nursing

Not Licensed: Legal by Statute

Board of Medical Examiners

Exhibit D

Board of Midwifery Alabama Idaho South Dakota Michigan Illinois Wyoming

Board of Certified DEMs Alaska Oregon

Office of DEM Registration Colorado

Board/Dept of Health Arkansas Florida New Mexico Rhode Island South Carolina Tennessee

Washington Oklahoma Arizona

Medical Board California Indiana Minnesota Virginia District of Columbia

Division of Professional Regulation Delaware Texas Vermont Wisconsin Utah New Hampshire

Hawaii

Board of Nursing Kentucky Maryland

Board of Medical Examiners Louisiana New Jersey

Board of Complementary Healthcare Providers Maine

Alternative Healthcare Board Montana

Not Licensed, Legal by Statute Missouri