

To whom it may concern,

In my work as a birth doula in northeast Ohio over the past 13 years, I have attended births in 14 different hospitals with many various providers as well as home births with different midwives. While more regulation is an admirable goal, this bill could adversely impact safe options for home birth. The main problem I see is the requirement for a collaborating physician, a great idea in theory. This is actually in place unofficially for most of the midwives I know, but requiring it to be official brings in the issue of insurance liability. Technically, certified nurse midwives have always been allowed to attend home births, but almost never do because of the backing doctor's insurance liability issues. My concern is that this legislation would throw all the home birth midwives into the same category, effectively eliminating practically all home birth options.

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