

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you please consider the many, many families in our state who see a BIG problem with this bill. We don't want our options taken away. We don't want the state in our back bedroom telling us how to give birth to our children.

My mother had 10 children, 5 in hospital and 5 at home, all naturally. Her hospital experiences were not good. I was her last hospital birth and her nurse midwife took me away and intubated me for no good reason but for to wait for a test result to come back negative. For a week I could not breath out of my nose and nursing was very difficult. My mother sought out options and found a non-nurse midwife was she loved dearly. This midwife had a lot less training than the average midwife, but she was totally natural at it and full of faith. This meant much more to my parents than a fully trained doctor. She helped them safely with the next 4 babies, and then they moved to another state. There they could not find a midwife to care for them because of licensure. So the 10th baby was born unassisted at home.

I am now a midwife because of my mother. I will not be licensed because I believe the state has no business controlling my faith and practice or the choices of the many parents I serve. They come to us because the hospitals won't let them have the births that they intuitively and informedly know they should be able to have. Many parents have bad experiences with the hospitals including nurse-midwifery care. It is a different system than the individualized care of the homebirth midwife. I am also a doula in hospital and see the stark contrast daily.

All parents should have the right to choose their care, hospital, doctor, nurse-midwife, or non-nurse midwife with a license or without.

Just because we are not currently regulated does not mean we do dangerous things. I am accountable to somewhere around 20 other midwives regularly. We have peer reviews when needed, have continuing education, have relationships with doctors, nurses and nurse-midwives who we collaborate with. We do not need drug regularly nor do we want them. Or transport rate is about 5% when the average hospital C-section rate is 30% in the US. We have much better outcomes then hospitals do statistically and our families love us. Many of them would rather go unassisted than to return to the hospital which is a fear based system due to the regulations, liability, insurance and so on.

PLEASE do not place us under the board of nursing! We are independent practitioners, not nurses working under doctors!

PLEASE do not make the 80% of us who are not eligible for licensure felons! We have learned through apprenticeship and course study and this is proven a better education than collage. Many will not be able to continue caring for women with the requirements, and it makes it MUCH MORE DIFFICULT for students endeavoring to become midwives! It's a lie that this bill will make it more available to the indigenous and black communities. It will make much more difficult.

PLEASE make the exemptions sure.

Thank you for listening!

Dorothy