



February 22, 2021

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

This letter is in strong support of HB 2388, which would improve access to midwifery care by expanding insurance reimbursement.

I am the owner of HiveCE, which has provided accredited continuing education to over 2000 midwives and lactation consultants since 2015. Additionally, I am the instructor of Billing for Midwives, where I have had the opportunity to hear the real world experiences of hundreds of midwives from across the country. Simply put, when states require insurance companies to cover midwifery care, they enable families to have greater ability to find the best care setting for their needs, regardless of their economic ability to pay out-of-pocket.

This expanded ability to choose their care setting has measurable benefits for the health of both members of the parent-baby dyad. Research such as *Mapping integration of midwives across the United States: Impact on access, equity, and outcomes* has shown that “improved access to midwives in all settings, were associated with significantly higher rates of spontaneous vaginal delivery, vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC), and breastfeeding at birth and at six months; and significantly lower rates of cesarean section (CS), preterm (PTB), and low birth weight (LBW) infants. Higher MISS scores were correlated strongly with lower rates of neonatal mortality and race-specific neonatal mortality.”¹ A PDF of this article will be submitted immediately following this letter.

For the benefit of all families in our state, I urge the passing of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration,

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¹ Vedam S, Stoll K, MacDorman M, Declercq E, Cramer R, Cheyney M, et al. (2018) Mapping integration of midwives across the United States: Impact on access, equity, and outcomes. PLoS ONE 13(2): e0192523. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0192523