

To committee,

I understand you are reviewing the legislation around medicare and midwives. the legislation draft is discriminatory and impedes a select group of peoples human rights, in particular freedom of choice.

the legislation would deny independant midwives the right to an income, as most if them will leave midwifery all together before taking restrictive positions in hospitals.

Furthermore, many woman will continue to birth at home -without a midwife- rather than enter the interventional medicalised birthing system of the hospital. Although in many cases free-birth is safe and incident free, it is not the ideal setting for some woman who would benefit from the presence of a midwife and choose to birth at home without one because the hospital is the less desirable option.

So, with this legislation forcing woman and some midwives 'underground' we will see other problems arise- aside from the unnecessary vilification of this select group of families and midwives, birth could go unregistered, and people who need to transfer from home to hospital would not for fear of the treatment they would recieve.

currently, transferring from a homebirth to hospital brings negative responses from hospital staff, if homebirth were effectively illegal then the attitudes would further deter homebirthers away.

i strongly urge you to reject this legislation in it's current for, and to address the issue of homebirth and independant midwives. this practice should be encouraged and promoted as the ideal setting for birth, not a crime scene.

Amy Bell
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