

Dear Senator Moore

A brief email to let you know how disappointed we are with the proposed bill that could make independent midwife lead homebirths illegal.

We are educated people just starting our family with our first child now 2 years old. We initially engaged a private obstetrician for the birth of our son. At 35 weeks pregnant she let us know that she would not support our natural birth plan wishes. So at 35 weeks we either needed to decide to let her take charge of our birth or we needed to learn out homebirth.

We confidentially engaged a very experienced independent midwife. Unfortunately a natural birth was not to be for us as we had complications, however we were very prepared to transfer as we had already spoken with an obstetrician at the Womens and Childrens Hospital, so it was a safe and smooth transfer.

The most important part of a homebirth for us was that we were able to choose what was right for us and also the post natal care. Our midwife visited every day for the 5 days and then every second day for the next week then every 3-4 days for a few weeks after that. I'm sure it was her labour of love and we were very thankful for it, she definitely helped us to have the happiest and healthiest possible start for our new family.

The people I know who have experienced homebirths will not be willing to go to hospital just because the law says. It is our life, our body and our choice to birth at home and I'm sorry to say but I think you will leave many many people with no choice other than to break the law. It is not just like speeding or stealing you are making laws about peoples natural rights, their natural instincts and it is just simply not right no matter how you try to justify it.

I strongly urge you to oppose the bill that will render independent midwife lead homebirths illegal.

Regards,

Leah &

Lachlan Jeffries