

Dear Sir/ Madam,

34 years ago I had a son at home. I did so because there were no midwives available to assist me and no doctor willing to attend a home birth.

Over the years since then choices have been better. More Doctor assisted home births and more midwives available to help women who chose to birth at home.

I was forced to have an unassisted home delivery, because there were no resources available to help me.

I chose to have a home delivery because I was not sick, I was having a baby.

I wanted to have an atmosphere conducive to the sacred act of birthing a child, and to not have that private and special space invaded by the sterile and clinical conditions of a hospital delivery room. I chose that as my birth right as a woman.

I followed all the proper medical checks and procedures in order to make sure that when the time came for my child to be born I was informed medically to the maximum. In that situation I felt able to go ahead and birth my child at home.

BUT I WOULD NEVER HAVE CHOSEN TO DO SO WITHOUT A DOCTOR AND MIDWIFE.....had a doctor and midwife been available to attend my home birth.

In 1975 they were not.

I thought that we had moved out of the dark ages, but it seems that we are moving back into them.

Compare the statistics for home births and hospital births and I am sure that home births are NOT more dangerous nor are there more deaths.

Women have this right, to have their child born out of a hospital.

THIS BARBARIC BILL IS AIMED AT STOPPING HOME BIRTHS: It does not support women and is a direct attack on human rights, deviously hidden within the act.

You are not protecting midwives, you are making the possibility for them to attend home births an illegal act.

I am one woman of many who chose a home birth. I would chose a home birth again.

You will force others who want a home birth to do so without the services of a doctor or midwife.

This bill MUST BE STOPPED.

Home birth is a human right, women's right.

Imagine the scene:

A woman who dearly loves and wants this child is in labour: She is breathing deeply and honoring the act of being present without pain killers but with full awareness while she cooperates with her body and the child within who is moving towards his birth. The father too is supportive of his family. Good friends who understand are there to help.

Soft light and gentle music help the atmosphere of relaxation and the joy of expectancy.

Then woman is able to move into whatever position she instinctively feels with be the easiest for her and the child she is birthing.

It is hard, it is strong, it is a miracle and it is happening in her own room, in her own home, with her loved ones around her.

If it were possible, a Doctor would be there JUST IN CASE of some unforeseen event, and a midwife would be present to assist the woman and monitor the vital signs of the child.

The atmosphere is charged with the past study of childbirth, everyone knows what is happening and what should happen.

And then, the moment comes, the baby's head appears, and tears of joy fall. The baby is born and lifted into the arms of his mother.

A miracle has happened. The father cuts the cord that unites them, and the baby begins to search for the breast.

Friends are helping around the room, all united in this beautiful moment. This natural moment. This chosen way.

The parents are with the child, they do not sleep, they just stare in wonder at this new and beautiful being. Born here, at home on their own bed.

Raven is born.

I TOTALLY AND ABSOLUTELY DISAGREE WITH THIS ACT AND YOU SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IF YOU PASS IT, YOU ARE HANDING THE LIVES OF UNBORN CHILDREN INTO A SITUATION THAT FORCES THEIR MOTHERS TO COMMIT A CRIMINAL ACT.

Your act is sneaky. You will allow midwives to attend a birth only if it is in a hospital, thereby forcing women who want a home-birth to do so unattended.

Lynne Dover