

Dear Senator Moore,

Re: Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the above bills. Due to this proposed new legislation regarding indemnity insurance, independent midwives will not be able to support women who want to birth at home - as of July 2010. Without indemnity insurance support, independent midwives will be unable to register to provide midwifery care for women choosing homebirth.

I am a mother of four children and have been privileged to have given birth to two of these children at home. These two births were particularly memorable and I was supported by wonderful, highly skilled independent midwives.

It is so important for me to be able to have the choice about where to birth my babies. My homebirths were calm, relaxed and a wonderful experience. I felt safe and comfortable birthing at home and my independent midwives were very experienced and provided an invaluable service throughout pregnancy, birth and post-natally. Without these independent midwives I would have no choice but to birth at hospital. I feel very strongly that women should be able to choose to give birth at home, if they want to.

Could you please protect our independent midwives and support women's choices for homebirth.

I appreciate your assistance with this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Amanda Saini