

5. From a personal point of view I am a passionate supporter of homebirth

I attempted a homebirth for the birth of our first child 5 years ago and had a homebirth for the birth of our second child 3 years ago. My main reason for this was that I believe for most women birth can be a normal, natural process, not a medical event. As such I didn't believe I needed to be in hospital to give birth. I felt confident that my homebirth midwives could deal with any situation that arose. Of course a slight risk still remained, but there is a slight risk involved in many everyday activities. With my second child's birth I was in a situation where it seemed as if I would not be able to find a homebirth midwife and have a homebirth. I understand the anguish a pregnant woman faces when she feels she may not be able to give birth how she wants. No-one attempts to deny elective caesareans to woman who choose that option so why should women be denied homebirth. I am angered by these Bills as they would take away choice from women. Even my partner and parents, who were initially very opposed to my homebirths, cannot believe that the choice could soon be taken away from women who want to homebirth.