

Dear Senator Moore,

I write to express my concern about the above Bills. I have three young daughters, as a mother I want them to live in a country that supports women's choices and rights, including a legislative right to choose a homebirth.

I understand that these

- > bills will enable Medicare funding, access to the
- > Pharmaceutical Benefits
- > Scheme and professional indemnity premium support for
- > midwives providing care
- > for women to give birth in hospital.
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- > Medicare funding for midwifery care is long overdue. It is
- > not acceptable
- > however to exclude homebirth from this funding and
- > indemnity arrangement. By
- > doing this Australia is totally out of step with nations
- > such as the United
- > Kingdom, Canada, The Netherlands and New Zealand.
- >

- > These nations support the rights of women to choose
- > homebirth and fund a
- > registered midwife through their national health scheme. In
- > New Zealand and the
- > U.K women have a legislative right to choose homebirth.
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- > The intersection of this legislation with the national
- > registration and
- > accreditation of health professionals will prevent
- > homebirth midwives from
- > registering. I believe this to be an unintended consequence
- > and ask that you
- > take steps to include homebirth within the Health
- > Legislation Amendment (Midwives
- > and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.
- >

- > I support a system where all consumers are treated equally,
- > with the same
- > access to funding and the same insurance protection.

Katerina Hagerty