

>> Dear Senator Moore

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>> I write to express my concern about the above bills. 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.

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>> 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.

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

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>> i used a private midwife (ms. jan ireland) for the birth of both my
>> children and i believe she was one of the main reasons both my
>> labours were quick, easy and free of complications. her extensive
>> knowledge, experience and support made me feel relaxed and
>> confident whilst giving birth. as a comparison, i was recently an
>> aid at a friend's birth who had chosen to use a obstetrician and
>> give birth within a hospital. i couldn't believe the difference.
>> although i had complete faith in the professionals there,
>> personally for me it felt clinical and cold. if i was forced to
>> give birth in a similar situation, i believe it would have hindered
>> me greatly. i would hate to think of other women of a similar mind-
>> state to myself, unable to have the right choose their perfect
>> birthing situation.

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>> Yours sincerely

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