

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have four children ranging from 17 to 33 years and three of them were born at home in the most marvellous intimate, and careing environment. The midwives we had to help and advise were totally professional, and magnificent women who gave my partner and myself support both before and after the births. The midwives were exceptional in their love, intelligence, quality of advice and their support to the mother. They have contibuted to my life as a father experiencing the birth of my children, in a way I will never forget. Each birth is so special because these women were there to support us and create a wonderful birthing experience in our own home.

In my view and direct experience, Midwives must be given the necessary recognition and insurance cover to enable parents to choose a home birth. Of course any risk must be minimized, distance to and ease of transfer to a hospital should be included in the negotiations. To hear the new head of the AMA talk so paternalistically and condemn home births is shocking, outdated and biased. Please let the fight end, and please give these magnificent professional women, respect, security, and insurance cover, to enable them to offer birthing advice and assistance to parents who choose to birth at home. Home births are here to stay, parents want that choice,

please make them safe by giving the midwives the insurance they deserve.

Thank you

Yous Faithfully

Hugh V Wilson