

To whom it may concern,

This is a short email to plead with you to not take away women's right to choose a Homebirth by effectively make it impossible for Homebirth midwives to get insurance. Where women choose to give birth is a very personal decision and not something that should be decided by any governing body. By taking away the option to give birth at home, you are simply encouraging women to Freebirth at home without any medical presence whatsoever. It is also putting midwives in a bad situation - if they know that a particular woman is going to freebirth, they may feel obliged to attend the birth so the woman has a medical professional present, however by doing this she/he would be risking massive fines and possible jail time. This is neither fair or acceptable.

All statistics say that Homebirth is just as safe, if not safer than Hospital Birth and with far less complications and interventions. I plead with you to listen to the statistics, not the hype and leave this decision for women to make themselves. I am a Doula and support women's choices no matter what they are - I plan to have my next baby at home, in my own calm environment as I don't want the unnecessary interventions I received at the Hospital with the Birth of my first child.

I leave you with this thought, women can always choose to birth at a Hospital whether the option to Homebirth is there or not - but take away the option to Homebirth and you are taking away an important decision for many many women and their families. Imagine if the tables were turned and Hospital Birth was virtually made impossible - there would be a major public outcry, and while it is only a minority of women who would like to birth at home, they still feel just as passionately (if not MORE passionately because they are better informed). Please leave the decision up to the families involved.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Kent