

Dear Senator

I am writing to express my fear, sadness and rage concerning proposed changes to independent midwives and homebirth.

I don't plan on having any more children but hope that every woman and future mother has the CHOICE to birth her baby in any way she wishes, including homebirth.

I have been fortunate to have two healthy children, my first born at RPA birth centre lasting about 35 hours and a surprise homebirth taking only 2 hours. I truly believe being in hospital increased the length of my first child's birth. I was in a foreign environment, with a midwife i'd never met before. I expected my second labour to take less time than the first but not two hours! I was relaxed, surrounded by my family and my labour progressed without any hindrance.

Birth is one of the most amazingly intimate moments of a woman's life and we should have the choice to experience it in familiar surroundings with our choice of support. Midwives are extremely knowledgeable and totally capable of supporting healthy women through childbirth.

Please don't limit women's choice!

Sincerely

Gillian Fitzgerald