

To whom it may concerns

I am a mother to four wonderful children.
3 of these children were born within the hospital system, one born at home.

My hospital births were traumatising, horrible experiences.
Sterile unfriendly environment, always rushed through appointments, never seeing the same person, different faces, different ideas, scared, attacked, not supported in my choices.
I was alone but surrounded by so many people, but no one that I knew, no one that could offer me comfort and support as they assaulted me yet again with one of their policy driven interventions.
Extended labours, cut and assaulted, battered and bruised, but at least I had my baby and we were alive?
Oh how wrong.

After such trauma for my fourth pregnancy I thought there had to be a better way, and there was...home birth.

I met my midwife when 6 weeks pregnant. We met and continued to meet my whole pregnancy. We became great friends, close friends and she is someone who is now very dear to my heart.
Labour began, at home with my family, midwife and children around.
Beautiful music, contentment, happy and never alone.
Birthing in water in under two hours, peaceful, beautiful and so empowering. Helping undo and heal the pain from previous hospital births.

Please don't take this option away from me. It was the most amazing experience of my life, so beautiful, so wonderful, so amazing.
Hospital birth for me is not an option and never again will be, I can't put myself through such a traumatic experience.
Please keep home birth legal, I need it, many people need it and it is a woman's choice to birth where she feels safest.

Sincerley yours,

Jodie Byerlee