

To Whom It May Concern

I am the mother of two children born at home, both now teenagers. 14 years ago when I gave birth to the eldest boy I did so with little co operation from the medical profession who essentially turned their backs on me when I discussed home birth with them. I chose to go it alone based on my good health and fitness and the desire to have my children in the comfort of our own home with the beautiful woman who became my friend. She gave me so much more expert advice and care than any of my friends who opted for or were coerced into forced caesarians and 'five minute look-overs' by largely disinterested or overworked medical professionals. I could not have chosen a better way to give birth to my lovely boys.

i am calling on those who may ultimately make the decision to debar all practising home birth midwives and their aides from the most natural and essential of all human processes - child birth in the homes of the loving parents who want the best and safest environment for themselves - to vote to give women the right of choice in how they have their babies, to co operate with home birth midwifery services in providing a safe caring birthing environment in hospitals and in homes around the nation and to allow all home birth midwives to work with medical professionals and in hospitals in a spirit of co operation and community support.

Legislating against HBM's will not make child birth any safer. It will drive it underground and women like myself will continue to build their own community and develop the skills that remove child birth from an arena of fear to that of a natural human rite. Women must have choice, safe choice. Every women is different. It must be her own informed decision.

Thank you

jayn Hobba