

Dear Senator

I am writing to express my disappointment with the current situation of the Maternity Services Review and relevant proposed Bills. From the available information, my understanding is that birth at home with an independent midwife is to become illegal by July next year. This will have an impact not only on my future as a midwife due to graduate next year, but also as a mother who is intending on having more children after July next year.

I find it difficult to comprehend that in this day and age our rights can be so easily taken away from us. As a student midwife training in both the hospital and community setting, I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend many homebirths and it saddens me greatly to think that the familiar scene of a new family tucked into their own bed getting to know their healthy and alert baby following a straight forward drug free birth in an optimal continuity of carer model of maternity care will soon become a thing of the past.

I ask you to reconsider the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and the two related bills that have the potential to make homebirth with an independent midwife illegal next year.

I would greatly appreciate any updates you may have for this situation including both the professional and personal impacts this may have on career as a midwife and also as childbearing woman.

Regards,

Tracey Browne