

15th July 2009

Dear Senate Committee,

It is with great concern that I write regarding the current issues surrounding home birth. By requiring all care givers to be covered under professional indemnity insurance, as 'Bill B' states, Midwives in private practice will no longer be able to practise, as they currently cannot buy insurance.

14 weeks ago I birthed my second daughter at home with the assistance of a qualified, registered private midwife. I want to birth all my future children at home, with a midwife and want my children to have that option too. 'Bill B' stands to take this choice away and I feel extremely discriminated against.

I would not choose to birth in a hospital for many reasons. Mostly because birth is a natural, normal process that does not need to be ne medicalised and keeping births out of hospitals frees up resources for those who truly need them.

Please find a way for midwives to be able to provide home birth care after the new regulation system starts on July 2010.

Please help to protect mine and my children's' choices to birth at home.

Yours Sincerely,

Chelsea Everingham