

Dear Senator Moore

Re: Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009 and two related Bills

I write to express my concern about the above bills. I understand that these bills will enable Medicare funding, access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and professional indemnity premium support for midwives providing care for women to give birth in hospital.

I support a system where all consumers are treated equally, with the same access to funding and the same insurance protection.

I have homebirthed my two children, both with a qualified midwife. Their support throughout both of my pregnancies was excellent. I felt that I was in very safe hands and that my health and my babies health was never compromised. I believe that my health and my childrens health thrived as a result of my choice to have a homebirth. I remember my births as being beautiful experiences and was a full family event.

I am not sure if I will have any more children, but if the choice to have a midwife supported home birth is taken away, then it takes my choice away from considering having another child. I will not be forced into a hospital to birth my children and I believe that no woman should be forced to birth where where she does not feel completely safe.

This is a human rights issue. It is also a very emotional issue. I cannot believe that taking away a woman's right to birth where and with whom she chooses is even being considered. I am enraged at the possibility of this happening.

I would appreciate a response.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Brooks