

Dear Senator Moore

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

I am a mother of three children who are at or near the age and stage of their life of considering a family with their partners. I wish to request the committee consider the fact that the choices of where my daughters and daughter-in-law might wish to give birth may be seriously diminished because affordable professional indemnity insurance will not be made available to independent midwives which in turn affects their ability to register as midwives. I cannot believe that the demise of home births is the intended outcome of these Bills given the financial benefit to moving patients out of hospitals to 'hospital in the home' programs.

It is my understanding that doctors who work in obstetrics receive subsidized professional indemnity and would request that this government initiative for private practicing doctors be extended to private practicing midwives to make this a more equitable and fair situation.

All prospective parents need to have more birth choice not less and I have confidence that this surely unintended situation can be rectified as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

J. Shaughn Leach