

Ms Claire Moore, Chair  
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Dear Senator Moore

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

As a physician, trained in public health and preventive medicine (Johns Hopkins) and experienced with my daughter's home birth in Mendocino, CA in 1993...

as well as an architect of the Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative (motherfriendly.org)...

and co-founder of the Alliance for Transforming the Lives of Children (atlc.org) ...

and founder of the first wellness center in the US (1975) featured on 60 Minutes in the US...

I think I speak with some authority on the subject (forgive the bragging--I want to be heard).

It is imperative that the economic, societal, psychological, and common-sense advantages of home birth be recognized by government, despite the vested economic interests of those opposing it.

For most births, it is far superior--especially in these changing economic times.

The intersection of this legislation with the national registration and accreditation of health professionals will prevent homebirth midwives from registering. I believe this to be an unintended consequence and ask that you take steps to include homebirth within the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.

Thanks,

John W. Travis