

Please consider the following as I write passionately both, as a midwife, and as a birthing woman in the prime of my family and professional life where I envisage a future of CHOICE...

After 2 years of trying to conceive our first child, the pregnancy was such an unimaginable joy. My husband and I nurtured our baby in every way possible and along with the journey of pregnancy, we were also planning and preparing for birth, to birth in a most natural way and bring our baby into a safe and most calm environment. It took us the most part of the 9 months to come to the decision that we would like to birth our baby at home which to us became so real and natural and safe and SO right. We shared this journey with OUR midwife, OUR 'woman' who is 'with woman', OUR daughter's midwife who she will know forever, who we have a never-ending bond and relationship with and who SAFELY helped us birth where we felt ourselves and because of this my body allowed my baby out in her own time and with EASE.

As a midwife I have attended hospital births as well as homebirths. There is a place for birth in the hospital, and for those who are lucky enough to have that CHOICE can and will! For those women who NEED the hospital space due to perhaps pre-existing medical conditions or complications of pregnancy, they are there and, I hope, INFORMED. BUT for a 'healthy' woman (not sick) who is 'having a baby' (a normal physiological process for the female anatomy and make-up), give them CHOICE, and not only choice to birth where they want to but with whom they want to, and provide that PROFESSIONAL body INSURANCE to do so safely and with SUPPORT.

To take the CHOICE of homebirth from women is NOT FAIR! For women and for midwives, if this Bill and other related Bills are legislated, you are disempowering the PROFESSION of independent midwives, not to mention the natural birthing ability of women!

Personally, I am now confronted with the very difficult, and 'out of my control' situation whereby IF I WANT TO BIRTH AT HOME I HAVE TO CONCEIVE BY SEPTEMBER and I might not be able to do that. So you are taking away a CHOICE that I may birth at home when the time comes that I am lucky enough to be having another baby and for me that might just not happen in TIME...??? Too bad hey...?

Yours in confidence...

Louise Thornton