

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.

Medicare funding for midwifery care is long overdue. Although it is not acceptable to exclude homebirth from this funding and indemnity arrangement. I believe this is such a big step backwards when we should be celebrating the changes, although cant because of what the proposed changes mean to homebirth.

Many nations support the rights of women to choose homebirth and fund a registered midwife through their national health scheme. In New Zealand and the U.K women have a legislative right to choose homebirth.

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.

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

There are so many reasons why these bills should not go ahead in their current form! Simply, and the most obvious reason is that we should all have the right of choice in this matter. A woman having a sense of autonomy and control over her body is very important in child birth.

My partner and I have one child already and are planning to have another. We have been planning to have our second child at home and will be very disappointed if these bills are passed as proposed. I am worried that we will not have another child if this happens.

Please take my email into consideration. And please include homebirth within the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) and related Bills.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Hack