



4 March 2024

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health & Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 1100

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

The Birth Justice Collaborative is writing to request your support of SF 1743, a bill to address Minnesota's maternal health crisis by creating a Certified Midwife (CM) licensure. CMs will provide the same scope of midwifery services as Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), and will be held to high standards for education, training and certification.

Midwives are proven to improve access to perinatal care and reduce infant mortality rates, preterm births, and the need for cesarean births in African American, American Indian, and rural communities, but Minnesota's aging Certified Nurse Midwives (CMN) workforce means families in this state will soon lose access to this lifesaving care.

Current requirements mandate Certified Nurse Midwives (CMNs) hold a bachelor's degree in nursing. The current strain on RN educational programs has made it difficult to attract and retain new midwives. By providing an alternative pathway to become a full-scope midwife, candidates from diverse backgrounds and professions will be better positioned to access training and complete the certification process to enter the workforce.

The Birth Justice Collaborative urges you to join us in supporting SF 1743, to support the midwifery workforce and sustain these lifesaving practices for years to come.

Thank you,

The Birth Justice Collaborative of Hennepin County

Cultural Wellness Center,
Division of Indian Work,
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center,
Native American Community Clinic,
Liberty Northside Healing Space