



04/28/2025

RE: Support for SF2109 Birth Center Reimbursement Increase Bill

Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Minnesota State Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives represents advanced practice midwives across the state. Our members are dedicated to providing high quality nurse-midwifery care to Minnesotans with a special emphasis on pregnancy, childbirth, gynecologic and reproductive health. **We are writing to express our support for Senate File 2109 (Pappas), now included in Senate File 2669 (Wiklund), a bill to increase sustainable reimbursement for freestanding birth centers in Minnesota.**

Freestanding birth centers are a tool that Minnesota should be using and promoting to address and improve maternity care in our state. Studies show that more Minnesotan families are choosing to receive their prenatal, labor and delivery, and postnatal care at a freestanding birth center. This is especially true in more recent years, when hospital labor and delivery units are closing down, and families are losing critical access to care, creating more of what are called “maternity care deserts” in the state.

Certified Nurse Midwives work in many settings, including in freestanding birth centers. They help contribute to the stellar outcomes that birth centers consistently show, including higher breastfeeding rates, lower c-section rates, lower medical intervention, and higher patient satisfaction, when compared to similar low-risk patients in hospital OB units. Birth centers also allow our CNMs to thrive in providing culturally congruent, personalized, and holistic care for each of our patients.

The legislative proposal in SF2109, and now SF2669, is integral in allowing birth centers to sustain and grow. At the MN ACNM, we believe all individuals and families should have access to safe, evidence-based reproductive care that is based in mutual respect, individual needs, and shared decision making. Freestanding birth centers are a critical piece of this puzzle.

Please support the inclusion of SF2109 in the Senate Health and Human Services Omnibus, and allow birth centers to continue caring for Minnesota’s women, newborns, and others seeking midwifery care during all stages of life.

Thank you,

Minnesota Affiliate of American College for Nurse Midwives, Treasurer