

THE MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIVES

MCCPM

April 28, 2025

To: Members of the Minnesota Legislature

Re: Senate File 2109 (Birth Center Sustainable Reimbursement Bill)

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Council of Certified Professional Midwives (MCCPM) in support of Senate File 2109, which would increase reimbursement rates for freestanding birth centers in Minnesota.

Minnesota is fortunate to be home to a thriving birth community with an array of maternity providers. The Minnesota Council of Certified Professionals is composed mainly of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs), who practice mainly in the home or birth center setting. We are also part of a larger midwife community in the Twin Cities. Our group's objectives include advocacy for standards of safe, evidenced-based midwifery care, and communication and relationships between midwives and other healthcare professionals. We are excited to be supporting legislation that would bring equity to our freestanding birth centers, the main work setting for many of our CPMs.

Despite freestanding birth centers' stellar outcomes and evidence-based model of care, these facilities are struggling to sustain due to under-reimbursement and pay inequity from insurance providers, government programs, and other payers. Two birth centers have closed down in the past year alone in Minnesota due to financial stress as a result of reimbursement inequity. Not only does this translate to greater scarcity of maternal health for families, but it also limits critical work opportunities for Certified Professional Midwives and other maternal health providers.

The inclusion of Senate File 2109 in the Senate Health Omnibus is a great opportunity to expand and elevate maternal health care in Minnesota, giving patients and families more access and more opportunities to obtain women's healthcare in a safe, evidence-based, and cost-effective setting. This proposal works towards pay equity for freestanding birth centers, allowing them to sustain and grow their practices. It can also play a critical role of encouraging midwives to open their own licensed birth centers, expanding maternity care further in Greater Minnesota and other areas where maternity care deserts are rampant.

Increasing sustainable reimbursement for birth centers in Minnesota is a tangible and meaningful step in improving the health of Minnesota families. We appreciate you and your colleagues' commitment to advancing maternal and family health. We urge the Minnesota Legislature to act swiftly on these commitments by supporting the inclusion of SF2109 in the Senate Health Omnibus bill.

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President
Minnesota Council of Certified Professional Midwives