



Sen. Melissa Wiklund  
Health & Human Services Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Dear Sen. Wiklund and members of the Heather & Human Services Committee,

The Birth Justice Collaborative is writing to encourage you to support SF 832 to recognize the Certified Midwife (CM) credential in Minnesota and to license CMs under the Minnesota Board of Nursing, as a strategy to address Minnesota's maternal health crisis and support the birth workers who provide lifesaving care for Minnesota's pregnant women and newborns.

Certified Midwives (CMs) provide the same scope of midwifery services as Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), and are held to high standards for education, training and certification by the Minnesota Board of Nursing. 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.

CMs and CNMs differ in how they entered their midwifery educational programs, but not in their scope of work or ability to provide care for pregnant people and their newborns. By providing an alternative pathway to become a full-scope midwife, more 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 832, to support the midwifery workforce and healthy births in Minnesota, for years to come.

Sincerely,

## The Birth Justice Collaborative

Akhmiri Sekhr-Ra, Cultural Wellness Center.

Louise Matson, Division of Indian Work.

Rev. Dr. Alika Galloway, Liberty Northside Healing Space.

Beth Buffalo, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

Dr. Antony Stately, Native American Community Clinic

Makeda Zulu, Urban Research & Outreach-Engagement Center, University of Minnesota