



April 9, 2025

RE: MN Certified Midwife Practice Act Inclusion in SF2669 Senate Health Vehicle Bill

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services 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 gratitude and support of the inclusion of the Minnesota Certified Midwife Practice Act (SF832 Boldon) in this session's Senate Health Vehicle Bill, SF2669.**

The Certified Midwife is an essential and evidence-based piece of the puzzle in Minnesota to ensure access to the right care, at the right time, in the right place for everyone in our state. With Certified Midwife licensure, Minnesotans would pursue graduate midwifery education directly after completing the necessary components of undergraduate education, saving themselves and the state valuable time and funds. At the same time, this would alleviate the strain on RN education programs. Nursing school seats would then be reserved for people who want to be nurses, and to work and serve their communities as a nurse. This is a vital consideration, given Minnesota's persistent nursing shortage across the state.

Certified Nurse Midwife and Certified Midwife care is associated with consistent high quality, often delivering better health outcomes as compared to conventional care. Patients consistently report a higher satisfaction rate and feel more respected and autonomous in their care. The Minnesota Certified Midwife Practice Act would expand patient care access, and increase the number and diversity of qualified midwifery professionals.

We are grateful that the Senate Health and Human Services Committee is taking advantage of this unique opportunity to invest in this important initiative that would address disparities in maternal health and support Minnesotan families to achieve their best health and wellbeing. We thank the committee members and urge the passage of SF2669.

Thank you,

Mary-Signe Chojnacki, APRN, CNM

Board Member of the MN Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives

Member of the Minnesota Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Coalition