

March 25, 2025
The Honorable Committee Chair Ron Latz
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Senate File 832 - Certified Midwife Practice Act

Dear Members of the Minnesota Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Janelle Wanzek, and I am a current certified midwifery student originally from Minnesota. I have recently become familiar with SF 832, as I was researching practice laws for certified midwives (CMs) in different states. Currently CMs are not able to practice in MN, but the passing of this bill can open that door. A CM is equivalent in training/education with a certified nurse midwife (CNM) who already has full practice authority in MN. The only difference between CMs and CNMs is that CNMs have a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Personally, I have a bachelor's in biology and a master's in physician assistant studies but decided to pursue midwifery in order to expand my care for women during labor and delivery. Unfortunately, even with all my education and completion of my midwifery degree, I will still be limited as to where I can provide this care because legislation has not accommodated for CMs in Minnesota. I hope that we can change this. The passing of this bill will allow for many current and future midwives to be able to provide quality maternity care in Minnesota, in turn, creating more access to affordable and evidence-based care for pregnant people in the state. Additionally, creating a new pathway to midwifery care that does not include a nursing degree, would allow opportunities for more people interested to be able to pursue a career in midwifery. As well as creating more open seats in nursing programs for those interested in providing nursing care.

Please support SF 832 this legislative session. The bill has many supporters including the Minnesota American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) Affiliate and the Minnesota Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Coalition. The MN section of American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), also in support, have named this bill their number one legislative priority this year. There is bipartisan support with no opposition to this bill. The passing of HF 1010 would be quite impactful for the MN healthcare system and for many lives including my own.

As I near graduation of my CM program I am eager to return to MN to practice in my home, close to many of my family members and friends. I appreciate all your work as members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee and your efforts in keeping all Minnesotans safe. I thank you for reading this letter and hearing my thoughts on supporting SF 832, The Certified Midwife Practice Act.

Sincerely,
Janelle Wanzek, PA-C, Certified Midwife Student
1442 S 600 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84105
701-367-7070, jwanzek@alumni.nd.edu