



HeartSpace Midwifery, PLLC

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in reference to the Joint Public Hearing: An Examination of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Rates in New York State happening on February 24, 2025.

As a licensed midwife in the state providing community birth services I would like to testify to the lack of available providers in the communities I serve. **WE NEED MORE MIDWIVES!!** I am at the tail end of my career and there are not nearly enough providers here to take over. I currently serve a mixed population in 7 different counties in and around the Capital District. We are very lucky in this area to have several thriving practices, but it's still not enough. I regularly get requests for care in maternity deserts in the north country and in the middle of the state. I am currently supporting an Amish community in which families are routinely driving 2-3 hours to get to midwives who can provide culturally competent care to them. I am currently the only midwife providing community birth in their area and I cannot possibly provide care to all the families in need. If CPMs could work in NY these families would not risk giving birth in the car on the way to their midwife. I have heard of exactly this scenario twice in just the last few months. This is not acceptable when it could be prevented by allowing Certified Professional Midwives (who can practice in many other states) to practice here in NY.

I am also noticing a significant uptick in the number of families choosing unattended births at home because they cannot find a licensed provider to provide community birth services. This will inevitably lead to unfavorable outcomes that could be avoided with more licensed providers available. New York needs to do better for the families. Please support passage of bills leading to recognition of the Certified Professional Midwives in New York. It's simply time to move this forward!

Sincerely,

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