Date:

Philip D. Murphy, Governor

Sheila Y. Oliver, Lt. Governor

Judith M. Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA, Commissioner

State of NJ Department of Health

P.O. Box 360

Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Dear Governor Murphy, Commissioner Persichilli, and NJDOH Legal and Regulatory Compliance Office:

## I am writing to support homebirth Midwives in NJ and to protect New Jersey’s birthing people’s right to have a safe birth where and with whom they desire. Homebirth Midwives have provided safe, compassionate, and empowering maternity care for decades. The Midwifery Model of Care at homebirth supports normal physiologic birth for essentially healthy birthing people and their babies. Respecting the critical role of maternal health in NJ as a priority, we are asking for your immediate assistance for an NJDOH Midwifery Waiver (see attached) to ensure maternal health and safety.

## During a pandemic, out-of-hospital birth (in homes and birth centers) is essential to minimizing transmission, maintaining health, and efficiently utilizing medical resources. NJ families have safely had homebirths during the pandemic. In NJ, home birth is available with Certified Professional Midwives, Certified Midwives, and Certified Nurse Midwives whose licensure and scope of practice fall within NJ Board of Medical Examiners Law & Public Safety NJ Administrative Code Title 13 chapter 35.

## As your administration has mobilized to make NJ the safest place to give birth and raise a child, through the Nurture NJ and First Lady Tammy Murphy’s Strategic Plan soon to be released, we need your immediate help in making a Midwifery Waiver under Covid-19 Temporary Operational Waivers and Guidelines. Without such a waiver we risk increased exposure of healthy families to COVID-19.

## Sincerely,

## XXXXXXX – your name here

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