Your Name

Address, City, ST ZIP Code

Telephone

Email

January 1, 2022

Antonia Winstead, Executive Director

Board of Medical Examiners

140 East Front Street, 2nd Floor

PO Box 183

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Ms. Winstead:

I am writing to support homebirth and to protect New Jersey’s birthing people’s right to have a safe birth where and with whom they desire. I am in support of the efforts of several Midwives in New Jersey who have requested a waiver to the following requirement:

*Section 13:35-2A.6 - Consulting physicians; clinical guidelines (a) Prior to beginning practice as a midwife, a licensee shall enter into a consulting agreement with a physician.*

I am a client of the Midwives of NJ and have been informed that this regulatory code coupled with the fact that there are no physicians in our area that are willing to sign a consulting agreement to cover home birth, the Midwives of NJ after 13 years, will no longer be able to offer home birth as a birth option.

Homebirth Midwives have provided safe, compassionate, and empowering maternity care in New Jersey 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 need to keep New Jersey Midwives working.

Clearly this creates hardship for those expectant mothers who were planning a home birth and now must find an alternative. This also places a hardship on the Midwifery practice- Midwives of New Jersey-who have already invested time and financial resources preparing these expectant parents for a safe home birth and are now losing these people as clients.

If they choose to go to a hospital or birth center instead, these expectant parents are now potentially going to be exposed to COVID-19 and placed in a restrictive environment due to the current hospital COVID-19 policies.

Please carefully review this situation and grant the Midwives the emergency waivers needed to restore home birth to the clients at Midwives of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Your Name