

Barbara Norton
Geneva Woods Birth Center
3730 Rhone Circle, Suite 101
Anchorage, AK 99508

January 30, 2014

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of the changes to statute proposed for Certified Direct Entry Midwives (CDM). The "laundry list" of practices that is currently in statute, belongs in regulations so the board can make changes as the standards of practice change.

I served on the board of the Direct Entry Midwives for 6 years (ending in 2013). Our midwifery practice also has 3 CDMs working alongside 4 certified nurse midwives (CNM), so I have intimate and extensive knowledge about midwifery practice. I feel the community would be best served by instituting the changes proposed in this legislation. While serving on the board, I researched the regulations other states have implemented for midwifery practice, and found that most states have their lists of approved practices in regulations, rather than in statute.

CDM's provide safe, cost effective care to low risk women in Alaska, and have for more than 25 years under AS 08.65.140. The statutes written in the early 1990's do not reflect current knowledge and practice. Moving them to regulations, will allow them to be updated and strengthened.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Norton, CNM
Certified Nurse Midwife