

**From:** [Erin Shine](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please Pass HB 26!!!  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2015 5:23:57 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 11:18 AM  
To: Erin Shine  
Subject: FW: Please Pass HB 26!!!

-----Original Message-----

From: lorna mazoff [[mailto:lorna\\_midwife@yahoo.com](mailto:lorna_midwife@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 11:14 AM  
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon  
Subject: Please Pass HB 26!!!

April 16, 2015

Sen. MacKinnon, Sen. Kelly, Sen. Micciche, Sen. Bishop, Sen. Dunleavy, Sen. Hoffman, and Sen. Olson.

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee,

Please help pass HB 26! The members of the Midwives Association of Alaska are hoping that you will see the importance of maintaining the Board of Direct Entry Midwives. We in the field have been busy with our midwifery practices, and were not aware of the tentative state our Board, and this Bill that holds its fate, were in. We have leaned on our representative Board members, Cheryl Corrick and Deborah Schneider, to speak for us to you, but today I invite you to hear the chorus of voices that is behind them. Do not assume the lack of contact from myself or other midwives, or sleep-deprived clients (your constituents) with happy, healthy newborns in arms, as a sign of disinterest. Today we may be busy attending births, but I speak for all the members of Midwives Association of Alaska when I express deep concern that we could lose our Board.

We are a profession with relatively few licensees (who pay one of the highest licensing fees), but what we do is big in Alaska. Some communities (Mat-Su valley area) have the highest rates of midwife-attended out-of-hospital births per capita in the country. With the regulatory guidance of the state Midwifery Board, the members of the Midwives Association of Alaska embody the highest standards in midwifery care. We have a Board with representation of nurse-midwifery, obstetric, and public/consumer stake holders, who work to keep the Certified Direct-Entry laws current and professional. Just last year the legislative session passed the midwifery bill, which now the Board is working to implement by amending the Regulations changes required by the new law. I have attended the Midwifery Board meetings for years and watched them work efficiently and effectively on many issues, including finances. They are diligent in finding ways to bring the Board into financial balance, even when costs are incurred out of their control.

The importance of keeping this Board is without question when one considers the number of healthy, low-risk women who seek midwifery care in Alaska. Midwifery needs to be regulated by a state board that understands both the professional practice of midwifery and the necessity of protecting the public.

Please pass HB26!

Sincerely,

Lorna Mazoff, CDM

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