Greetings,

This is in regards to HB26, the Sunset Bill for Certified Direct-Entry Midwives (CDM). I am asking you to support this bill and get it passed through the finance committee.

Our board is necessary to insure Alaska's CDM laws remain professional and current. The members of our board consist of and OB/GYN, a CNM and five volunteers that meet two times a year. They also have teleconference calls, which the bottom line; DECREASES THE COST for legal, consulting, and administrative costs should this profession be regulated by the department of corporations, businesses, and professional licensing (DCBPL).

Our board has worked diligently in the past years to maintain a safe, professional standard of care for families who choose to birth out of hospital. Our board, along with the new Chief of Investigations, Angela Birt, and supervisor of DCBPL, Sara Chambers have worked to decrease the budget deficit that was inflicted by the past licensing examiner. The board has put a lot of effort into the house keeping of regulations for CDM’s. The modification to the CDM regulations are in limbo at this time, and should we lose the Power and Wisdom of the CDM Board, the profession of CDM’s will be vulnerable.

Certified Direct-Entry Midwives are important to families who choose to birth in Birth Centers or at home. Through the years CDM’s have saved millions of dollars in Medicaid by decreasing the rising incident of cesareans.

Alaska stands out across America for the highest rate of out-of-hospital births attended by a midwife. I am asking you to help protect and grow this statistic by approving HB26.

Vote YES on HB26!

Sincerely,

LeShine Herfindahl, CDM, BSN

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