

To Whom it may concern,

Before the Alaska Legislature this session (2022) is SB192 and HB334. The Midwife Statutes update legislation is coming to your attention for discussion and an opportunity to vote on it soon. In this legislation you will find an update to Alaska law regarding the licensure of out of hospital, community based midwives.

As the organization of MAA, Midwives Association of Alaska, we have reviewed and discussed this legislation in great detail. Acknowledged is that as a group of strong, fiercely independent women we will likely not all come to 100% agreement on every detail of any matter, including this.

Members of our organization have been given the opportunity and encouraged to voice opinions on this legislation. We each come from differing perspectives and experiences, based on our individual lives, practices, and colleagues. That is one of the beauties of midwifery care, we are unique and individual in each of our styles and beliefs.

As the elected officials of the Midwives Association of Alaska representing the consensus of a majority of the membership, we support SB192 and HB334.

As the very providers who are being licensed and regulated with this statutes update, our voice must be heard and considered as we are the ones practicing under the statutes before you.

We understand that this legislation broadens access to care for safe and affordable birth options for Alaskan families.

We understand that this legislation eases the administrative costs to the State of Alaska licensure process.

We understand that this legislation complies with legislative recommendations to bring our Alaska Midwives Statutes into compliance with national midwifery standards, emphasizing public safety for Alaskan families.

We understand that this legislation provides within our Alaskan statutes a requirement for insurance companies to provide equal pay for equal services provided.

We understand that this legislation updates the makeup of our board to be representative of the providers it espouses to regulate. With the passage of this legislation we will have a board made up of our peers who understand our practice and work side by side with us in the community setting.

We will never take for granted the respectful, collaborative relationships we will continue to enjoy with the providers we refer to, consult with, and collaborate with to provide the very best care for the Alaskan families who choose us as their midwives, and we understand that our board will no longer be made up of hospital based medical doctors and APRN's who do not work within the community setting.

Respectfully,
Midwives Association of Alaska Executive Board