



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development

BOARD OF CERTIFIED DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIVES

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August 8, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman  
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Bjorkman,

This letter expresses support for Senate Bill 121, "An Act relating to settlement of health insurance claims". The legislation is crucial for ensuring fair and sustainable healthcare access throughout the state.

The Alaska Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives supports SB 121, Health Insurance Allowable Charges as it would:

- Expand patient choice and access to Certified Direct-Entry Midwives for childbirth and newborn throughout Alaska.
- Reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients, ensuring affordable care.
- Establish fair and consistent reimbursement rates based on data reflecting recent charges by Alaskan healthcare providers, including minimum payment standards.
- Promote transparency and consistency in applying reimbursement rates across all provider types.
- Ensure the viability of small midwifery businesses, aiding their ability to negotiate with private insurers and continue serving Alaskan communities.

The legislation supports Alaska's commitment to protecting public health and the healthcare workforce. By ensuring fair reimbursement rates, the financial stability of providers can be improved, encouraging healthcare professionals to practice in Alaska, and improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare services for all Alaskans.

Voting in favor of Senate Bill 121 will safeguard the healthcare system and ensure that all Alaskans have access to the care they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
Handwritten signature of Holly Steiner in blue ink.  
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Holly Steiner, RN, CDM, CPM  
Chair, Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives