

Midwives have had a profound effect on my motherhood journey. One I did not get the first time. I am 8 weeks postpartum and still receiving the positive ripple effect of being able to choose a midwife to deliver with. I strongly oppose EO130.

Ashley Earns  
Wasilla Alaska

To whom it may concern,

Please vote NO on EO 130 that does away with our State Board of Midwives and to vote YES on House bill 175 that brings our Statutes into alignment with our regulations and up to National Standards.

Thank you,  
Kirsten Reynolds

To whom it may concern

I am writing to ask you oppose EO No 130.

Midwives provide a much needed and wanted service in this state. Both of my children were delivered with midwives present. I would not have wanted it any other way.

They are highly trained in “normal” labor and deliveries- of which most are. Medically speaking, the majority of births are pretty uneventful and require no more than a midwife’s skill, training, and calm reassuring presence. They are trained in what the issues and complications are and when to transport. That is - if transport is even possible. With a rural population as large as ours, midwives provide an even more crucial role in taking care of mothers and babies.

By removing the board of midwifery, the mothers and babies of Alaska will be negatively impacted. Please do not let this happen and vote no on EO 130.

Thank you  
Phaedra Connell

It was midwives who got excited with me when I thought that I was pregnant, and midwives who comforted me when I wasn’t. Midwives are essential to our communities and the well-being of women. Please vote against EO130.

Suzanne Kirk  
Girdwood

My name is Cole Thomas-Ballinger and I oppose EO130. This order will drive many families that need midwives and the care and time they can give to hospitals, most of which are already full to the brim with patients. I hope you take my thoughts into consideration, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Cole Thomas-Ballinger

Good morning!

I am a lifelong Alaskan (currently living in Seward city limits) and mother of three Alaskan babies who were born with the assistance of midwives. I am entirely opposed to Executive Order 130. It is misguided and unnecessary. The current midwifery board is fiscally solvent and staffed by actual birth professionals. There is zero benefit to dissolving the board, but many costs to the women of Alaska. Please protect women's birthing options and the health and safety of us and our children by voting to reject this executive order.

Please feel free to reach out by phone or email if you have any questions. Thank you for your time,

Kaycie Thompson Mallory

I am **OPPOSED** to the governor's Executive Order 130 that would absorb the Board of Midwives into the Department of Commerce. Please vote NO on EO130.

Thank you,

Celena Schuette

I am **OPPOSED** to the governor's Executive Order 130 that would absorb the Board of Midwives into the Department of Commerce. Please vote NO on EO130.

Thank you,

Celena Schuette

To the Committee,

I am **OPPOSED** to the governors Executive Order 130 that would absorb the Board of Midwives in Alaska into the Department of Commerce.

I would also ask that you vote **YES** on HB 175 this session as it makes its way through the committee process and ultimately will be voted on by the whole body.

**We must continue Alaska's strong history of access to midwifery care and protecting the autonomy of this profession, for the good of ALL Alaskans.**

Thank you for your time,

Corie DeVries

Palmer, Alaska

- The use of Certified Direct Entry Midwives and autonomy for birthing options has been highly valued by many Alaskans for over three decades.
- Alaskans are known for valuing personal freedoms and autonomy, and this mindset is inclusive in choosing their birth attendant.
- Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct Entry Midwives ensures Alaskan women and families who desire Midwives have the utmost autonomy over their birthing options and the profession, verses sole government control and dictation of Midwifery regulations which could restrict birth options for Alaskan families.
- The current structure of Board of Direct Entry Midwives consists of five members; 2 Certified Direct Entry Midwives, 1 Certified Nurse Midwife, 1 Obstetrician, and 1 public member. With their collaborative knowledge these five members set regulations in a manner that ensures public safety and reflects current provider standards in the field of Midwifery. Because of the specificity of the Midwifery field, it is difficult to glean how a state administrator will accomplish a similar quality of oversight for the profession. Ultimately, this may lead to restricted birthing choices for Alaskan women and families.
- The Midwives Association of Alaska questions the Governor's decision in proposing this abrupt and dramatic change for our regulatory body. It is difficult to understand why this Administration would eliminate a self-sustaining board.
- The most recent Legislative Audit of the Board of Direct Entry Midwives completed in October, 2022 determined the necessity of the Board of Midwives. Moreover, the audit recommendations highlighted the shortfalls of the departments' staffing challenges, in turn contributing to license processing delays as well as delays in addressing issues of public safety.
- The staffing deficits within the department have been a long-standing issue, and it is not understood how eliminating the Board of Direct Entry Midwives, which are filled on a volunteer basis, would improve efficiency or maintain public safety.
- The Midwives Association of Alaska requests additional transparency and reconsideration of the matter. We oppose the elimination of the Board of Direct Entry Midwives and government control of this important health care choice.
- Alaskans are more than four times as likely as other Americans to choose a community setting supported by Midwives. Certified Direct Entry Midwives attend 60-80% of all out of hospital births in Alaska therefore; the issue of who oversees Midwives in Alaska is an issue for Alaskans.
- According to the Alaska Vital Statistics 2022 Annual Report from the years 2018-2022, Certified Direct Entry Midwives were hired and entrusted by over 2500 families as they expanded their families, welcoming our newest Alaskans into the world.
- Numerous studies positively support the outcomes of Licensed Midwives including higher rates of physiological birth, lower intervention rates including lower Cesarean rates, higher rates of Breastfeeding initiation and continued breastfeeding at six weeks postpartum, as well as greater client satisfaction with the birthing experience. Alaskan Midwives can also boast quality services and favorable outcomes for the families we serve.

Hello,

I am writing as an Alaskan resident and mom to 3 children.

I encourage you to vote NO on EO130 and YES on HB175.

Thank you,

Emily Pasternak