



# JUNEAU FAMILY BIRTH CENTER

February 16, 2024

Dear Alaska State Senate and House of Representatives,

Nationwide the obstetric community is working to reduce the maternal mortality crisis and midwifery care, place-based and culturally competent care, has been heralded as the solution. Alaska is not immune to the rise in maternal mortality and sees the majority of our fatalities come from social factors such as abuse, depression, and substance use. Midwives provide relationship based care that is a protective factor for these deaths. I am writing today to request that you vote to overturn Executive Order 130 that would remove the Board of Direct-Entry Midwives and place oversight within the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing.

The Juneau Family Birth Center has been staffed and run by certified direct-entry midwives since 1998, during which time we have served well over 1800 families. Our birth center relies on the existence and work of the licensing board to ensure that our midwives are able to practice to the full extent of their scope, keep up with current best practices, and provide oversight for those that may be practicing unsafely.

Sincerely,

Madi Grimes, CDM, CPM

Director, Juneau Family Birth Center