

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** courtneyanne12@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:03 AM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** Support of HB 49

Dear Rep. Kito,

I'm writing a letter in support of HB 49 to extend the termination date of the CDM midwifery board.

I have two sons, ages 1 and 4, both who were born at a birth center in Anchorage with the help of a Direct Entry midwife. Both of my births were without fear or complications, and I count them as the two most empowering and wonderful days of my life. I look back on those two days with nothing but positive memories. But I know enough about the maternal care system in our country that this is not the experience that many women have. The norm is unfortunately for maternal care and birth to be a highly medicalized experience --- one that disempowers women and frequently causes more complications than it solves. I won't even mention the financial costs of this system, which are well documented.

If we are to reverse this trend and increase the number of women who have the opportunity to birth with the support of a midwife, we have to support the midwives we already have! Our Alaska midwives provide a valuable and necessary service for mothers in our community. Without midwives to support the emotional and physical needs of pregnant and birthing women and new mothers, all of society loses.

I strongly support this bill and any other efforts to support the efforts of midwives and as a result, mothers and babies. Please let me know what else I can do to support the bill.

Thank you,

Courtney Munson

Anchorage, AK

Sent from my iPhone

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Veronica Temple <vtemple.93@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** HB 49 - Termination of Midwife Board

Mr. Kito,

I am writing in regards to HB 49 - supporting the request to extend the board of midwives. I truly believe midwives play a crucial role in the care of women and children, not just during the birthing process, but during prenatal and postnatal care. Midwives and birthing centers provide the BEST alternative to labor and delivery as hospitals can be daunting and scary for women who are already having to go through the most terrifying experience of their life - childbirth. I can say with complete confidence that the midwives I worked with to deliver my son are the reason he is here today. I've never received such support, kindness, and maternal medical care in my life. They are essential to our medical community and state especially in villages where doctors are scarce. So please, I beg you to accept their bill to extend the termination of their board, furthermore I ask that you fight for their board to not be terminated at all.

Kindest regards,  
Veronica Temple Hoxie

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Sarah Robertson <sarahski63@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:07 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** House Bill 49

Dear Representative Kito,

My name is Sarah Robertson, I am an apprentice midwife at Rite of Passage Midwifery and a student at Via Vita Midwifery School. I am 53 years old and live in Homer Alaska, I am developing and building the Homer Birth and Wellness Center. The midwife I work under and the Board of Midwifery are integral to maintaining an accountable profession, that ensures our population has access to safe out of hospital birth.

This is a licensed profession, with a Midwifery Board, that wants an opportunity to comply with the States requirements. To maintain this board it is imperative to vote yes to House Bill 49. There have been difficulties in the past that need more time to resolve, and there has been forward movement to do just that, please give us the extension we need and deserve.

Thanks for your time, sincerely, Sarah Robertson AM

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Jess <sawyer.jessica@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 3:01 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** Support of HB 49

Dear Representative Kito,

I am writing in support of HB 49 to extend the board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives. CDMs provide an integral service to Alaska's families, also providing financial savings to the state in health care costs.

There have recently been positive changes regarding the governing of this board, which I expect will help bring the board out of the financial trouble brought about by previous poor handling by the state.

Thank you for your part in supporting the excellent service and value CDMs provide for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sawyer, CDM, CPM  
Treasurer, Midwives Association of Alaska Commissioner for CABC (Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers) sawyer.jessica@yahoo.com  
2124 N Tabasco Cat Dr.  
Palmer, AK 99645

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** samantha meekin keller <nelliejuan@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 3:04 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** Supporting hb49

Hi, my name is Samantha Keller, a direct- entry midwife in Wasilla. I believe it is very important that direct- entry midwives have a regulating board. I believe that our profession should be stringently regulated, but with input from those who work in our field, or know about our profession.

Thank you, Samantha Keller

Sent from my iPhone



## **Juniper Tree Midwifery LLC**

**Phone: (907) 299-4399**

**Fax: (907)-782-4394**

**Email:**

**[junipertreemidwifery@gmail.com](mailto:junipertreemidwifery@gmail.com)**

**P.O. Box 811 Kasilof, AK 99610**

Rep. Sam Kito,

I am a home birth midwife on the Kenai Peninsula and I would like to represent my positive support for the HB49.

Thank you,

Juniper Lanmon-Freeman CPM, CDM

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Elke Saunders <emscpm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 2:44 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** HB 49

Hello. I am writing in support of HB 49. A direct-entry midwifery board ensures public safety by providing close oversight to midwifery practice in the state of Alaska. It is necessary to continue this vital service and provide access to maternity care in underserved areas and for underserved populations. Thank you for your time.

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Elke Saunders, CPM, CDM  
Certified Professional Midwife

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Flea Roberts <flearoberts@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** HB 49

I am writing to express my support for HB 49 to extend the CDM board sunset until 2021. Midwifery care is highly valued by the people of Alaska with some of the highest out of hospital births nationally. Midwifery care is shown to improve maternity outcomes, decreasing intervention. This decreases the cost to both the consumer and the State of Alaska.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me.

Felicity Smith

Anchorage, Alaska



## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** deborah schneider <midwifedls@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 2:26 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** HB 49 information Medicaid study 2014

Dear Representative Sam Kito,

I would like to pass this informative study on to you for inclusion with HB 49. As the State of Alaska considers the cost of maintaining a separate Board of Direct Entry Midwives, this study shows how much we currently save the State and how much more it could cost if the Profession of Midwifery is not able to continue.

Deborah Schneider, CDM

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Judi C Davidson <jcdstork@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 2:15 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** HB 49

Dear Representative Kito,

I am writing in support of HB 49 for the extension of the sunset bill for Direct-Entry Midwives of Alaska. I have been a midwife in this state since the first year of licensure, and we have always had a state board to offer safe guidelines for our unique profession. Our state has made great progress in Maternal Health Care due to the jurisdiction of our board. Please support this bill in the interest of health and safety for our many recipients of care.

Sincerely,

Judi Davidson, CDM, CPM

Director: Mat-Su Midwifery & Family Health Wasilla, AK Sent from my iPad

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Deborah Gillespie <gillespiend@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:18 AM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** HB49

Hello,

I am a practicing CDM, Certified Direct-Entry Midwife, practicing in Juneau. I have been serving families in Juneau for 13 years.

I am writing today to ask for support for extending the termination date of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, HB 49.

Thank you,  
Deborah Gillespie CDM, ND

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Cheryl Corrick <cherylcorrick@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:21 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** HB 49: Sunset Bill for the Board of Certified Direct-entry Midwives

Dear Representative Kito,

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. The Board of Certified Direct-entry Midwives (CDMs) has worked diligently to ensure that the statutes and regulations for CDMs are up to date and represent current "best practices". It is very impressive that the licensees want to keep their board and are willing to pay extremely high licensing fees to manage the debt that has accrued largely due to poor management by DCBPL and Investigations. This speaks volumes considering that the income CDMs make is much lower than many other healthcare professionals in the state who have licensing fees that are a fraction of CDMs. As current and former board members and board chairpersons, we are strongly in favor of HB 49, continuing the Board of CDMs. Again, thank you for your support of this bill and all of the work you and your staff have done and are doing on behalf of it.

Warmly,

Dana Brown, CDM  
Board Member  
Executive Director of Alaska Family Health & Birth Center  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Cheryl Corrick  
Former Board Member/Chair  
Administrative Director of Alaska Family Health & Birth Center  
Fairbanks, Alaska

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Chelsea Jahn <chelsea@juneaubirthcenter.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:37 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** HB49

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Chelsea Jahn. I am a certified direct entry midwife practicing in Juneau, AK. I am writing in support of HB49. I believe the profession of midwifery needs to continue in Alaska under the direction of a board that understands the difficulties in providing midwifery care to mothers and babies in our unique state. Midwifery is in the unique position to serve families all over the state ant great cost savings to our already stretched health care dollars. The members of our board know the work of midwifery and we, as licensees, depend on them to understand our work. I urge you to support HB 49.

Thank you,  
Chelsea Jahn, CDM  
Juneau, AK

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Chelsea Jahn, CDM

**Juneau Family Health and Birth Center**  
**1601 Salmon Creek Lane**  
**Juneau, Alaska 99801**

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** Sarah Robertson <sarahski63@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** Midwifery Board - HB 49

Dear Representative Kito,

My name is Sarah Robertson, I am an apprentice midwife at Rite of Passage Midwifery and a student at Via Vita Midwifery School. I am 53 years old and live in Homer Alaska, I am developing and building the Homer Birth and Wellness Center. The midwife I work under and the Board of Midwifery are integral to maintaining an accountable profession, that ensures our population has access to safe out of hospital birth.

This is a licensed profession, with a Midwifery Board, that wants an opportunity to comply with the States requirements. To maintain this board it is imperative to vote yes to House Bill 49. There have been difficulties in the past that need more time to resolve, and there has been forward movement to do just that, please give us the extension we need and deserve.

Thanks for your time, sincerely, Sarah Robertson AM

## Crystal Koeneman

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**From:** mangapenwell@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 7:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Sam Kito  
**Subject:** In support of HB 49

I am writing in support of HB 49. "This would extend the board of direct entry midwives. Direct entry midwifery is good for the families of Alaska who rely on quality midwifery care to birth their babies safely.

Direct entry midwives save the State of Alaska hundreds of thousands of dollars while delivering safe birth care with excellent outcomes!

Direct Entry Midwives are unique care providers who rely on a board to set safe guidelines and manage licenses.

Thank you for helping Alaskans keep the board of direct entry midwives!

Amanda Penwell

Direct entry midwife and mother of 2 children who were born with direct entry midwives.