

**Between the dates of 3/2/24 and 3/7/24, The House Labor and Commerce Committee received the following below email 95 times.**

## **GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY LEADS TO MORE DANGEROUS AND MORE EXPENSIVE BIRTHS**

Chair Sumner

Vice Chair Ruffridge

Representatives Prax, Saddler, Wright, Carrick, and Fields:

I am writing to urge you to **support** [SSCR07](#), **disapprove** [EO 130](#), and **protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care** for themselves and their babies.

Additionally, I am urging you to **support** [HB 175](#), which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

### **PETITION**

Imagine telling pregnant mothers – perhaps your wives, daughters, or others that you know and care for that **for the sake of government efficiency**, Alaska is reducing the options available to them, and ***they will have to give birth in doctor directed birth centers or hospitals increasing the time, difficulty, and cost of every baby they deliver.***

Imagine telling those same pregnant mothers that ***to achieve greater government efficiency*** they submit to birthing practices that have:

- **6X increase of maternal mortality**
- ***17% higher*** incidence of Cesarean sections

- **Increased** risk of **breastfeeding difficulty and failure**

Imagine telling those pregnant mothers that the same government efficiency that is going to **force them into more difficult, dangerous, and expensive deliveries** could cost the State **at least \$5.1 MILLION DOLLARS MORE** per year than it does now.\*

**Governor Dunleavy** issued Executive Order [\(EO\) 130](#) on January 15, 2024, directing **the** Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives (**the Board**) to be **eliminated**, and their licensing and administration duties to be transferred to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED).

**Governor Dunleavy's** proposal says that eliminating **the Board** will:

- More efficiently certify and regulate Alaska's Midwives
- Develop greater expertise in the profession.
- Eliminate duplication of functions.
- Provide a single point of responsibility for regulating Alaska's Midwives

**Governor Dunleavy's** [EO 130](#) **disregards** the fact that **the Board** already operates very efficiently, producing a \$67,000 surplus in FY 2021.

**Governor Dunleavy's** [EO 130](#) **omits** that a DCCED Records and Licensing Supervisor is already "efficiently administering" the Midwives' licensing and certifications.

**Governor Dunleavy's** [EO 130](#) **fails to explain** which of the **435 DCCED** administrators will replace the **5-member board** of Midwives, Nurse Midwife, and Physician currently serving on **the Board**.

**Governor Dunleavy's [EO 130](#) fails to explain** how replacing the 5 Medical Professionals with the [435 DCCED](#) administrators will ***develop greater expertise in the Midwifery profession.***

While eliminating ***the Board*** will not immediately eliminate midwives and midwifery services in Alaska, [EO 130](#) provides no assurances that the licensing and administration of Certified Direct Entry Midwives will not be degraded or eliminated.

More importantly, ***eliminating the 5 Medical Professionals*** from the oversight, administration, and training of Alaska's Midwives will certainly **lead to worse outcomes for Alaskan mothers and babies.**

It is also clear that ***maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives*** is **a critical part of the care** Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

I am urging Governor Dunleavy to ***immediately rescind*** [EO 130](#).

I am also urging ALL Alaskan Legislators to ***support*** [SSCR07](#), ***disapprove*** [EO 130](#), and ***protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care*** for themselves and their babies.

Additionally, I am urging ALL Alaskan Legislators to ***support*** [HB 175](#), which updates Midwives' title from Certified Direct-Entry Midwives to Licensed Midwives, which are included in more insurance programs, ***providing Alaskan Mothers with more affordable pregnancy and birth options*** for themselves and their babies.

Licensed Midwives practice to ***the full scope of training and certification***, allowing Licensed Midwives to ***help more Alaskan Mothers and thier babies.***

Finally, [HB 175](#) ***upgrades*** the licensing requirements to meet National Association of Registry of Midwives (NARM) Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) Standards that require additional Continuing Education (CEU) that **make Midwife attended births safer for Alaskan Mothers and their babies.**

Respectfully and urgently,