

March 8, 2024

#### **House Labor and Commerce Committee**

Alaska State Capital Juneau, AK 99801

Chair Sumner, Vice Chair Ruffridge, Representatives Prax, Saddler, Wright, Carrick, and Fields:

Alaska Right to Life and over 1,200 Members are writing to urge you to support and pass <u>HB 175</u>, which *updates the licensing standards* to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, and *increases the safety of Midwife attended births*.

Additionally, we urge you to support SSCR7 to disapprove Executive Order 130.

As you know, *Governor Dunleavy* issued <u>Executive Order (EO) 130</u> on January 15, 2024, directing *the* <u>Board of</u> <u>Certified Direct-Entry Midwives</u> (*the Board*) to be <u>eliminated</u>, 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** <u>EO 130</u> <u>disregards</u> the fact that <u>the Board</u> 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 <u>the Board</u> will not immediately eliminate midwives and midwifery services in Alaska, <u>EO 130</u> 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 <u>lead to worse outcomes for Alaskan mothers and babies</u>. It is also clear that *maintaining <u>the Board</u> of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is <u>a critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

In conclusion, please act today to <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

For Life,

Patrick Martin Alaska Right To Life

Attachments: HB 175 & EO130 Petitions 20240308 EO 130 Petition Signers 20240307



# Rachel Pugh, Eagle River, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

Additionally, I am urging you to *support* <u>HB 175</u>, which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

### SAFER BIRTHS AND HEALTHIER BABIES

Under the training, oversight, and administration of the Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Board, Midwife attended births have produced:

- **Lower Maternal Mortality** (0 recorded maternal deaths in Midwife attended births) compared to 6-20 under Doctor directed and hospital births.
- 17% fewer Cesarean sections.
- Improved breastfeeding experiences and outcomes.

## MIDWIVES PROVIDE CRITICAL CARE

<u>Eliminating the 5 Medical Professionals</u> from the *oversight, administration, and training* of Alaska's Midwives will lead to worse outcomes for *Alaskan mothers and babies*.

Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.* 

PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

#### UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Rachel Pugh, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 10:13

# Mary Yanagawa, Wasilla, AK

I am a midwife serving this population of families in Wasilla.

I strongly oppose what the governor has done and is attempting to do.

We MUST revoke EO130. This is mothers, babies, and midwives we have on the line here. To be overseen by an already overburdened administrative state will have innumerable unknown consequences down the line.

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Mary Yanagawa, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 11:01

# Nicole Thomas, Anchorage, AK

I support midwives

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Nicole Thomas, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:03

# Nathanie Carson, Wasill, AK

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Nathanie Carson, Wasill, AK 2/26/2024 14:03

# **Brittany Tompkins, Wasilla, AK**

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Brittany Tompkins, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 14:04

## Max Musial, Wasilla, AK

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Max Musial, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 14:07

# Mariah Mckee, Anchorage, AK

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Mariah Mckee, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:07

# Lance Roberts, Eagle River, AK

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Lance Roberts, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 14:07

# Steven Duffy, Eagle River, AK

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Steven Duffy, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 14:08

# Sam Wilson, Anchorage, AK

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Sam Wilson, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:10

# Precious Clum, Eagle River, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Precious Clum, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 14:11

# Suzanne Kirk, Girdwood, AK

I am in school to be a direct entry midwife. Executive Order 130 would cause so much harm to women, their families, and Alaskan communities in general. Please vote against EO 130!

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Suzanne Kirk, Girdwood, AK 2/26/2024 14:15

# Jennifer Eastman, Wasilla, AK

Our family has used midwives for prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care for all of our children. Leave the Board of Midwives alone, and allow these dedicated professionals to continue providing the excellent care that they always have.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Jennifer Eastman, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 14:18

# Catie Kemper, Palmer, AK

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PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Catie Kemper, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 14:21

# Rachel Hanson, Eagle River, AK

As an Alaskan mother and RN I STRONGLY believe that women should have the choice of where and how to deliver their babies. Taking away these options that have provided 10s of thousands of women with wonderful births and happy, healthy babies would be unconstitutional and a HUGE overstep on the governments part. I absolutely cannot stand behind these inexcusable government proposition to take away sacred rights & choices from Alaskan families.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Rachel Hanson, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 14:24

# Jim Lowther, Chugiak, AK

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Jim Lowther, Chugiak, AK 2/26/2024 14:25

# Richard Wyatt, Anchorage, AK

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Richard Wyatt, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:25

## Lindsey Boone, Wasilla, AK

My midwives have made all the difference in my pre and postnatal care. They have made me feel so safe, confidant, and empowered as I have navigated bringing new life into this world.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Lindsey Boone, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 14:27

# Rebecca Hinsberger, Kasilof, AK

Please keep the midwifery organization in its current status. Gov Dunleavy's alternate (EO 130) will be detrimental to all midwives and their clients.

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Rebecca Hinsberger, Kasilof, AK 2/26/2024 14:28

## Denise Petrash, Anchorage, AK

It is vital that Alaska women have a full range of options to choose from when determining the safest and most comfort way for them to give birth.

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Denise Petrash, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:30

# Erika Griffith, Eagle River, AK

Alaskan mothers and midwives cannot relinquish their rights and autonomy over their pregnancy and delivery to the hands of government oversight.

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Erika Griffith, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 14:33

## Alison Fabacher, Wasilla, AK

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PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

Submitted via the Alaska Right to Life Committee PO Box 201134 | Anchorage, AK 99520 Info@AlaskaRightToLife.org | (907) 232-2211 I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the</u> <u>best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

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Alison Fabacher, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 14:37

# Luke Bowe, Anchorage, AK

Please discontinue the EO against midwives! I have 7 children who were delivered by midwives in AK, and they don't need the government stepping in to "help" them deliver babies!

Thanks, Luke

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Luke Bowe, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:41

# Gabrielle Ide, Anchorage, AK

Midwives give mothers critical care, information and freedom of choice in a declining medical culture. They are necessary for healthy families in our community.

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Gabrielle Ide, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:42

## **Grace Elkins, Palmer, AK**

Birth is natural and has been safely and successfully happening for thousands of years without the help of the government.

When/how/where/and who helps a pregnant or birthing mother is the mothers personal decision. The government must stay out of the most intimate, personal, and incredibly special moments in the bedroom.

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Grace Elkins, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 14:42

# Richard Mcclure, Anchorage, AK

Two of our 4 children were born with the assistance of a mid-wife, the youngest 2.

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Richard Mcclure, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:47

## Kim Ford, Wasilla, AK

In December of 2023 I was in North Carolina for the birth of my granddaughter. My daughter (who had delivered 3 other children at a Charlotte hospital) wanted a home birth which had been made illegal for midwives to perform. She delivered at home with just a doula. Making it illegal to have midwives deliver babies is highly risky, as many pregnant moms have had horrible experiences in hospitals and do not wish to repeat their birth traumas. We need to standardize the industry with high standards across the entire country. Not cause women to go "underground" to deliver their babies as they should be allowed to safely have midwife assisted home births. I was hesitant at first before really researching and even taking a doula certification course that specialized in VBACs (Vaginal Birth after Cesarean). I was amazed at the stats and that midwife assisted births were safer than doctor assisted births because of all the interventions used by the doctors. Please listen carefully to all who speak on behalf of midwifery and do your research. Thank you.

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I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the</u> <u>best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

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Kim Ford, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 14:48

# Theresa Bird, Anchorage, AK

Please protect the rights of women in Alaska by ensuring that direct government control of the birthing options of women does not come to pass.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Theresa Bird, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:51

# Melissa Allsup, Anchorage, AK

By regulating the midwives you will basically be taking away a treasured option for women to get help giving birth. I used midwives for 6 of my 9 children and was thrilled to work with people who took the health of the mother and baby so seriously. They were not invasive, but provided us with a wonderful, safe, professional environment to have our babies.

## Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Melissa Allsup, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 14:52

## Marianne Burke, Wasilla, AK

Governor Dunleavy, PLEASE don't destroy the midwifery service in our great state!!

I used a midwife in two of my births- they were wonderful! I did not want all of the hospital's "interference" in a very natural, God- given process as birthing, where preventative measures greatly decrease any risk. But hospitals' interference of induced labors, excessive drugs, treating birthing like a disease rather than a natural process, greatly increases risk to the mother and the baby! I know this because of all of the years that I have been on this earth, hearing of all of the many stories against hospital interference and natural birthing being the better way to go. Please undo what you have done on this bill!

God is watching all of our actions, and consequences good or bad come out of what we do, say, and support! Be a Godly man, Gov Dunleavy!! DO THE RIGHT THING!!!

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Marianne Burke, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:04

# Samantha Carney, Wasilla, AK

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Samantha Carney, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:06

# Angus Burke, Fairbanks, AK

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Angus Burke, Fairbanks, AK 2/26/2024 15:07

# Jen Syzdek, Eagle River, AK

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Jen Syzdek, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 15:07

# Cathleen Tacci, Anchorage, AK

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Cathleen Tacci, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 15:11

# Samuel Reed, Anchorage, AK

Alaska and all mothers needs midwives. Please help protect this institution.

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Samuel Reed, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 15:14

## Mindy Tiner, Chugiak, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Mindy Tiner, Chugiak, AK 2/26/2024 15:15

## Gayle Hadley, Anchorage, AK

Please Maintain the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives. This board is highly efficient and necessary to keep midwifery accountable and successful in Alaska.

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Gayle Hadley, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 15:17

## Colleen Peterson, Wasilla, AK

Why on earth would you think this was a good idea? I vote to protect the midwife board.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Colleen Peterson, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:18

## Stephen Simmons, Anchorage, AK

I fail to see why meddling with a proven and successful state program designed to efficiently help expectant mothers is a good thing. Government keeps finding ways to harm people with its intellectual stupidity. I urge you to rescind Executive Order 130.

## Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Stephen Simmons, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 15:21

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Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.* 

PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Rebt Procter, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 15:21

## Donna Campbell, Palmer, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Donna Campbell, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 15:26

## Margaret Loew, Palmer, AK

The Midwives run their program very efficiently! It is NOT a broken system. Please do not FIX IT! Leave it alone & let it continue to function as a well established entity, that operates in the black! In this case, smaller is better!

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Margaret Loew, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 15:29

## Ron Michael, Wasilla, AK

It should be each persons choice who and how they choose to deliver their babies.

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Ron Michael, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:29

## Alexandria Hoffman, Palmer, AK

Please keep direct entry midwife services an option. I know firsthand that the hospital is not prepared to take more patients than it already has nor is it an excellent place to bring a child into the world. Most importantly just allow people to choose for themselves.

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Alexandria Hoffman, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 15:31

## David Lewis, Juneau, AK

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David Lewis, Juneau, AK 2/26/2024 15:32

## Anna Ford, Wasilla, AK

I am terrified of the hospital environment and for my mental health I could not imagine having the option to birth elsewhere under midwifery care. I loved my midwifery experience. Protect our Midwife's!

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Anna Ford, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:36

## David Smith, Eagle River, AK

The move to eliminate the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives in favor of governmental control will bring harm to mothers, babies, and the economy. This is an ill advised move and will have massive ramifications. If we know anything, it is that the government is the least qualified to lead this industry. Nothing run by government runs well, or efficiently. Government run mail, healthcare, environmental protection, it is all failure and serves only to destroy our rights, our economy, and our environment.

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David Smith, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 15:36

## Abigail Allsup, Anchorage, AK

I was a home birth and proud of it! I will want to do the same as my mother and use a midwife if I'm ever lucky enough to have children!

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Abigail Allsup, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 15:40

## Bethany Kirillov, Wasilla, AK

As a midwife myself and a mother, I firmly stand AGAINST this executive order. Most of the midwives I know and serve with protect life at all costs and we will stop at nothing to serve the population of the state to give birth in a way that suits them. I guarantee the maternal mortality rate will increase, fetal/infant mortality will increase, and more women will be driven to elective abortions because they feel trapped and their out of hospital care provider unable to serve them because of insurance issues. We the midwives do NOT deserve to have our board dissolved and I will NOT stop fighting them on this. Every day of my life will be dedicated to the reinstatement of our board if it goes away. This is NOT right!!

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Bethany Kirillov, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:41

## Vanessa Perry, Homer, AK

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Vanessa Perry, Homer, AK 2/26/2024 15:42

## Naomi Allsup, Wasilla, AK

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Naomi Allsup, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:43

## Shanna Courson, Anchorage, AK

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Shanna Courson, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 15:44

# Lyubomir Kirillov, Wasilla, AK

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Lyubomir Kirillov, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:46

# Sandra Chatterton, Palmer, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Sandra Chatterton, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 15:47

# Elizabeth Mischenko, Palmer, AK

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Elizabeth Mischenko, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 15:47

# Benjamin Shier, Wasilla, AK

While efficiency in go is an admirable goal, it can actually be dangerous in many contexts in government. While a three branch system of government is anything but efficient for making and enforcing laws, it is yet one of the best protectors of freedom and balance. While getting rid of this board may appear efficient, it will likely have the effect of moving critical oversight and decision making for this important area further away from the people's oversight and further into unaccountable government bureaucracy.

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Benjamin Shier, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:52

# Dawn Tozier, North Pole, AK

Please rescind or disapprove EO 130 and protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for themselves and their babies.

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Dawn Tozier, North Pole, AK 2/26/2024 15:53

# Andrea Arnold, Wasilla, AK

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Andrea Arnold, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 15:59

# Jacquelyn Carmen, Wasilla, AK

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Jacquelyn Carmen, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 16:01

# Brianna Burris, Big Lake, AK

With my pregnancy, after extensive researching, I opted to go through a midwifery with a planned home birth so that I could be in control of my options and make the choices that was best for my health. I had a wonderful pregnancy and experience, and only received the medical intervention that was needed and not pressed my medical boards or the CDC.

I would 100% go through a midwifery if I was to have another child and would like to continue to have that choice in my experience.

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Brianna Burris, Big Lake, AK 2/26/2024 16:03

# Carrie Cook, Soldotna, AK

I have had two births at home overseen by Direct Entry Midwives. Their knowledge and expertise are unparalleled. Giving Alaskan women the choice to birth where they feel comfortable is key to our success as a state.

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Carrie Cook, Soldotna, AK 2/26/2024 16:03

# Coke Sarah, Wasilla, AK

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**Coke Sarah, Wasilla, AK** 2/26/2024 16:04

# Josiah Coke, Wasilla, AK

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Josiah Coke, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 16:07

# Kailah Laxague, Wasilla, AK

Before my pregnancy, it took, on average, three months to receive ANY form of medical care in Alaska. I am on a six-month waitlist to see a neurologist, a three-month waitlist for dental care, a six-week wait to be seen by my primary care provider, and, on average, I have to wait two weeks for my prescription medication to be filled due to significant backlog in the pharmaceutical industry. These wait times are unacceptable for anyone, especially when we contemplate how these long wait times may affect pregnant women, children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

In considering a shift of oversight and management from midwives with decades - even generations - of invaluable experience, it is crucial to recognize the potential risks and issues associated with such a change. The wealth of knowledge and insights accumulated over the years is not easily replaceable.

The midwives currently in charge have weathered various challenges and navigated through complex scenarios, developing a deep understanding of the intricacies of our community's needs. Their expertise is a valuable asset that cannot be understated. Handing these critical responsibilities to a system of individuals already struggling and unable to maintain the current system may lead to a loss of crucial knowledge, compromised decision-making, and an increased likelihood of errors, which might prove detrimental or even fatal to Alaskans.

In fact, the proposition of EO130 conveys to me that the author of this bill is significantly out of touch with Alaskans' current needs, not only as those receiving care but also those struggling to provide it. Therefore, it is illogical to discard generations of qualified knowledge only to replace it with flawed political, systemic, and administrative considerations.

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Kailah Laxague, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 16:08

# Laura Lemons, Wasilla, AK

As an Indigenous Midwife and Doula who practices here in Alaska I believe it is imperative to retain a board of my peers who govern the body of midwives. The government workers are already understaffed and overworked and the idea that a state worker will have the interests of mothers and babies first and foremost like a professional midwife is ludicrous. I implore you to protect this board. Please sign this petition and protect midwifery in Alaska.

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Laura Lemons, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 16:11

# Geri Cannon, Anchorage, AK

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Geri Cannon, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 16:11

# Megan Audette, Chugiak, AK

Everyone deserves to have a say in their health care, especially when it effects women and how they give birth. Midwives are important to society, they have been around for as long as society.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

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*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

# SAFER BIRTHS AND HEALTHIER BABIES

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Megan Audette, Chugiak, AK 2/26/2024 16:13

# Susan Magone, Wasilla, Ak, CA

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Susan Magone, Wasilla, Ak, CA 2/26/2024 16:13

# Andy Cizek, Soldotna, AK

It's extremely hard to believe with our bloated government in alaska and it's overreach that there's not many other things to cut from the budget that cost us way more to support like all the ngo's and accomplish way less. Get rid of the things that work against the majority of Alaskans first and not the things that actually help and save money. Thanks.

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Andy Cizek, Soldotna, AK 2/26/2024 16:17

# Anna Coke, Wasilla, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Anna Coke, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 16:19

# Larelle Finn, Chugiak, AK

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Larelle Finn, Chugiak, AK 2/26/2024 16:20

# Christopher Butters, Wasilla, AK

How does EO130 make sense? Let's remove five qualified midwives and replace them with people who are already barely meeting Alaska's healthcare needs. How does this improve care for Alaskans?

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Christopher Butters, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 16:33

# Roger Young, Wasilla, AK

The board needs to remain.

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Roger Young, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 16:49

# Helen Gillquist, Eagle River, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Helen Gillquist, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 16:51

# Donna Dehart, Wasilla, AK

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Donna Dehart, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 16:52

# Maria Combe, Fairbanks, AK

Please don't take away women's choices for childbirth. Doctors are biased in favor of drugs and surgery. Midwives have been delivering babies for eons and know what they are doing, and if one doesn't, a midwife board is in the best position to fix that problem. Thank you for not spending more money on an unnecessary and inefficient change.

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Maria Combe, Fairbanks, AK 2/26/2024 16:52

# **Dennis Deering, Palmer, AK**

Please respect parents' choices when it comes to having and raising their own children.

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Dennis Deering, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 17:02

# Deborah Bruner, Wichita, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Deborah Bruner, Wichita, AK 2/26/2024 17:03

# Paul Kuriscak, Anchorage, AK

Honorable Governor Dunlevy, You have always displayed moral integrity and fiscal responsibility. I I urge you to rescind or disapprove EO 130 and protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for themselves and their babies. We appreciate you and the work you have done for all Alaskan's.

Paul Kuriscak Family

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Paul Kuriscak, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 17:05

# Jack Lowe, Wasilla, AK

This is wrong. Where are your morals governor. Please reconsider.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care* <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.

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Submitted via the Alaska Right to Life Committee PO Box 201134 | Anchorage, AK 99520 Info@AlaskaRightToLife.org | (907) 232-2211

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Jack Lowe, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 17:16

# Jessica Lowe, Wasilla, AK

Although I am a mother of an adopted child, I cannot fathom not having proper midwifery care available to me if I was able to successfully become pregnant. As a mother, I would want the option to choose the best route of care and delivery for my baby and anything that jeopardizes that health care choice, I cannot support. The statistics support, as well as the first hand experiences of many mothers I know, that using a midwife and birth center/home birth hands down made for far SUPERIOR experiences than the typical hospital facility/doctor birth and care. Please, please reconsider this piece of legislation and allow Alaska Midwives to continue their level of practice and care for Alaskan mothers-no, for Alaskan families.

# Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care for themselves</u> and their babies.

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Jessica Lowe, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 17:17

# Susan Yanish, Fairbanks, AK

I am writing in strong support of direct entry midwives. They are valuable asset for our Alaskan communities. Six of my seven children's births were attended at home by direct entry midwives. The midwives were mother and baby focused, and were not watching the clock or trying to rush things along. The home/midwife experience was far superior to my experience at the hospital with baby number seven where I was pressured repeatedly to have an epidural and a pitocin drip when I was barely beginning to dilate. Because I wanted to see a doctor and discuss this path before agreeing, I was considered "uncooperative" and was left alone from 8:30am until after 2:00pm before the doctor finally came to meet me and discuss my situation. I was exhausted; I needed support and care, not badgering alternating with hours of solitary confinement. When the delivery drew near, the hospital room was suddenly overflowing with staff who had never seen a woman give birth without medication...it was bizarre and completely different from the privacy and peace of my home births with competent and caring midwives. This option must be protected for the sake of women and their babies.

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Susan Yanish, Fairbanks, AK 2/26/2024 17:24

# Onesti Mcneely, Wasilla, AK

Governor Dunleavy, EO 130 is not only an overreach of power and an INCREASE of inefficiency instead of a reduction, it is objectively stupid. Health care, particularly prenatal care, outside of the major populated areas of Alaska is difficult enough to access. This makes that problem worse. You ran on being pro-life. Show us that you are. Stop posturing to look like you are being useful. Actually do your job: lead!

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Onesti Mcneely, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 17:27

# Ava Martin, Wasilla, AK

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**Ava Martin, Wasilla, AK** 2/26/2024 17:35

# Sheila Thacker, Anchorage, AK

Alaska's Direct-Entry midwives provide a valuable, safe and financially efficient option for expectant Alaskans mothers. Eliminating this board of certified direct entry midwives gives dangerous and unnecessary control to government. Please rescind or disapprove EO 130 to protect Alaskans' right to direct their own healthcare.

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Sheila Thacker, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 17:43

# Michele Deering, Palmer, AK

I've written you previously begging you to reconsider this ill-advised EO. EO 130 puts the life and health or mothers and babies at unnecessary risk, and crushes parental rights and the medical freedom of women. Please, so the right thing, and allow the current Board of Midwives to continue to its good (and very efficient!) work unobstructed.

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Michele Deering, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 17:45

# Mike Short, Palmer, AK

Midwives serve an extremely vital role in the lives of all Alaskans. PLEASE protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for themselves and their babies. Having a midwife was the absolute best experience ever.

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Mike Short, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 17:57

# Juline Arestad, Seward, AK

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Juline Arestad, Seward, AK 2/26/2024 17:59

# Carrie Maichel, Big Lake, AK

Midwifery is one of the most important services and mother and child can utilize and should NEVER be subject to government oversight and control. The Board needs to stay where it is. Run by the professionals that understand what is needed to care for birthing mothers and babies. Not government employees that have no understanding of what they are "regulating"!

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Carrie Maichel, Big Lake, AK 2/26/2024 18:01

# Lori Wilson-Ortega, Gustavus, AK

I had my 6 children with Alaska midwives and 5 of my grandchildren have had midwife assisted births. Encouraging midwifery should be a top option for Alaskan families as midwives help us have healthier babies.

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Lori Wilson-Ortega, Gustavus, AK 2/26/2024 18:09

## Elise Blake, Wasilla, AK

Midwives are an integral part of Alaska's communities. Natural, midwife-assisted births are far more prevalent in Alaska compared the prevalence in many other states. They have excellent outcomes. They function well under the current board. A plan to eliminate the board can only downgrade the positive natural birth outcomes that Alaska has. This decision is detrimental to the integrity of the midwife, and birth, community.

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Elise Blake, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 18:09

# Aschleigh Kelley, Wasilla, AK

I'm so thankful for the 2 deliveries I've had here in Alaska with my midwives. I've delivered in hospitals before and the healing time and over all experience was so different. Delivering in a birthing center, all natural, with the amazing support from my midwife was so great. I do not want to see this option taken from myself, my daughters and any mom in the future. Please do not proceed with these actions.

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Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care* <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.

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I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Aschleigh Kelley, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 18:11

# Maureen Retzel, Anchorage, AK

Dear Governor Dunleavy,
I urge to you to reconsider the proposed changes to and instead
maintain the current Board of professionals that oversee Certified
Direct-Entry Midwives for the health of the women and babies served
by Midwives.
Sincerely, Maureen Retzel

# Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Maureen Retzel, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 18:13

# Tasha Borrero, Wasilla, AK

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Tasha Borrero, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 18:15

# Shannon Wileman, Anchorage, AK

As we loose faith in the abilities of our hospitals and search for more natural solutions thanks to the devastating results of the "pandemic" where people were told to give up their autonomy and get jabbed in order to keep their jobs, I believe midwives will be playing an important role in the future birthing of the new generations of Alaska. There needs to be a strong pathway to more people becoming midwives in this great state as well as a sturdy support system. Thanks for your time.

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Shannon Wileman, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 18:23

## Alexis House, Wasilla, AK

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Alexis House, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 18:23

## Daniel Watson, Wasilla, AK

Midwives are an essential option and should not be controlled by another organization. People have the right to a choice even if others disagree.

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Daniel Watson, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 18:25

# Rebecca Leonard, Trapper Creek, AK

It's been brought to the attention of the women of Alaska that the board of midwifery is in jeopardy. My midwives saved my life during labor as I ended up having to have my son via c-section. If I hadn't had midwives as an option, I probably would have chosen an unassisted home birth as I live remote and would not have had their amazing expertise by my side. Please understand the need for the choice of midwifery for women in Alaska. Not only do they save stubborn women like me, they teach us women more about our bodies and babies than any hospital ever could. They take time that is never taken in a medicalized environment. They know my name, not my number on their list for that day.

Give Alaskan women our continued God given right to choose to have these amazing women by our side during birth. They save lives and bring babies into the world every single day in this amazing state and deserve to have their voices heard and jobs kept.

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Rebecca Leonard, Trapper Creek, AK 2/26/2024 18:27

## Barb Hanson, Jamestown, AK

Women should be able to choose to have a midwife and give birth in the comfort of their own home. A midwife is a professional with a certification and training and should be allowed to give mothers a choice of how they are most comfortable giving birth.

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Barb Hanson, Jamestown, AK 2/26/2024 18:29

# Levi Leonard, Trapper Creek, AK

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Levi Leonard, Trapper Creek, AK 2/26/2024 18:31

# Taryn Fraker, Wasill, AK

Please try to help women and babies more instead of hurting them

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Taryn Fraker, Wasill, AK 2/26/2024 19:07

# Therese Syren, Anchorage, AK

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Therese Syren, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 19:16

# Stacey Lowe, Wasilla, AK

Our Certified Direct Entry Midwives are autonomous health care providers will insurance billing, diagnostic and primary care duties and should govern their own profession.

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Stacey Lowe, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 19:20

# Craiy Gilliland, Eagle River, AK

Governor Dunlevy,

As a father of seven (7) children, the last six (6) of whom were born at home with the assistance of a midwife, and now a grandfather of five (5) grandchildren whose mothers have chosen midwives over doctors to deliver their babies I wholeheartedly object to eliminating the Board of Direct Entry Midwives via EO130.

## Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Craiy Gilliland, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 19:22

# Connie Woolard, Palmer, AK

Women should have the option of using a midwife instead of going to a hospital to give birth. Why change or eliminate something that is working.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

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Connie Woolard, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 19:28

# Mary Sandell, Castle Rock, AK

My daughter just had a fantastic experience with midwives.
Thankfully they knew when she needed to go to the hospital and have doctor intervention. But, our daughter and son in law got to labor the way they dreamed up until that point making it easier for them emotionally to give in and go to the hospital. We met the midwives after and were incredibly impressed with their facilities and abilities. Also, common sense says that especially in AK with so many remote homes, midwives make more sense than anywhere since it can be hard for people to get to cities. They were willing to come to their home, meet somewhere in the middle, or have daughter come to them. It's an invaluable service and choice. Thanks for listening.

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Mary Sandell, Castle Rock, AK 2/26/2024 19:30

# Aislyn Keagle, Soldotna, AK

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Aislyn Keagle, Soldotna, AK 2/26/2024 19:43

# Mary Sonnenberg, Florissant, AK

I am very much in Favor of keeping the Midwives working. They were one of the reasons that my granddaughter deliver safely our new great grandson.

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Mary Sonnenberg, Florissant, AK 2/26/2024 19:51

# Remember Mailly, Palmer, AK

We need healthcare freedom, we should have the right to protect and possess our right to our choice of healthcare and at home or with midwives if we want it.

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Remember Mailly, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 19:52

# Aaron Bursell, Chugiak, AK

My wife and I have five children with a sixth child on the way. All of our births have been delivered with the help of a midwife in the comfort of our own home. We have greatly benefitted from and appreciated the availability and service provided by our midwife and her staff. We are very much in support of maintaining and expanding the midwifery service options available in this state but not at the cost of expanded government intervention. Please let the oversight of the midwives remain under the Board of Certified Direct-entry Midwives and outside the reach of the, sometimes agenda driven and politically expedient, medical hierarchy.

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Aaron Bursell, Chugiak, AK 2/26/2024 20:02

## Dave Rutz, Wasilla, AK

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Dave Rutz, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 20:33

# Steve Mailly, Glennallen, AK

Beginning tonight, my support for Governor Dunleavy is over. I will cease and desist from speaking and working against the Governor politically when he ceases and desists from supporting measures such as EO 130 as a sheep of the medical establishment. Though a patriot and a conservative, I regard laws that force me to obey a specious medical establishment as an attack on my grandchildren's freedom and my own, just as bad as any woke left, communists or globalist elitist scheme.

I stand with my wife Karen Mailly, and my Alaskan daughters Hannah Johnson, Elizabeth Mischenko, Sarah Graber, Remember Mailly and Rebeckah Mailly with my hackles up! We/I stand against any crony/medical establishment bullshit measure to further restrict our/their medical liberties and freedoms...again, often because of crony medical lobbyists or else weak Kneed, presumptuous, low T supporters of doctors who strut around like they know something enough to only study their own material, if that. After all, golf is available in the Mat Valley.

Of my seven daughters, 5 of whom had children mostly with the help of midwives (the best of which, in the case of my own wife, believed in and practiced with more freedom)---the ones who utilized the medical establishment here suffered more complications and much slower recoveries. The anecdotes that I speak of here are only the tip of the iceberg. Big toys like radiation machines and heroic surgery kept myself and my wife alive, but everything else in the medical profession is presumptuous, broken, specious and even neglectful and outright reckless. I am 66 and have observed this since childhood.

Many don't see it because our society is weak and scared. People face death and even childbirth with an in trepidation that plays into the hands of so-called science and the crony medical lobby, and you are falling for it yourself. I require my elected officials to labor and

advance freedom, not restrict it further in favor of simple, basic corruption!

If there is something wrong with board of midwives, I offer a real solution: Hands off!!!!!! You politicians and crony medical lobbyists who think you freaking know something. Mind your own damn business and do so by getting some guts. As for you who are midwives, stand up for your rights! If you cannot, get a high T husband or father to stand up for you!

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Steve Mailly, Glennallen, AK 2/26/2024 20:35

# Skyler Burgess, Palmer, AK

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Skyler Burgess, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 20:41

# Caitlin Fiser, Cordova, AK

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Caitlin Fiser, Cordova, AK 2/26/2024 20:49

# Catherine Gilliland, Chugiak, AK

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Catherine Gilliland, Chugiak, AK 2/26/2024 20:53

# Sarah Pylant, Wasill, AK

I will never be able to express accurately how important midwives are to the overall health of women and children in Alaska. From safe, well informed and controlled home births to the best and most compassionate postpartum care, midwives are essential to Alaska. There is no one better to oversee the midwives who care for the community than individuals with a first hand understanding of the field and all that comes with it. I strongly oppose EO130 as it puts a whole community of women at risk for unnecessary hospital intervention and puts women's rights at risk in the future.

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Sarah Pylant, Wasill, AK 2/26/2024 21:01

# Julie Greenman, Anchorage, AK

I gave birth to both my children with the care and assistance of midwives. It was because of them that I was able to deliver my firstborn safely without a cesearean. I am confident that the hospital nurses would have had me go that route. Because of my midwife and her skill and expertise I had the confidence that my daughter was not in distress and that I could continue in the birth process without unnecessary intervention. It was also due to their training and expertise that I was wisely, professionally, and safely transported to the hospital after the birth of my son with a retained placenta. Midwives are an invaluable asset to mothers, their unborn, and newborn babies.

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Additionally, I am urging you to *support* <u>HB 175</u>, which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

#### SAFER BIRTHS AND HEALTHIER BABIES

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Julie Greenman, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 21:04

# Erica Sullivan, Palmer, AK

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Erica Sullivan, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 21:15

## Nicole Anderson, Jber, AK

Please leave the Midwife board intact. Thank you for considering our request and taking care of AK.

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Nicole Anderson, Jber, AK 2/26/2024 21:15

# John Hawkins, Anchorage, AK

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John Hawkins, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 21:17

# April Basnett, Palmer, AK

Midwife lead births are incredibly important. They have far better outcomes for mothers and babies more often than the doctor convenience led medical interventionist hospital deliveries. Give women back the power to control their pregnancies and deliveries!

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April Basnett, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 21:38

# Marcus Munro, Palmer, AK

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Marcus Munro, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 21:38

# Annette Baiocchi, Wasilla, AK

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Annette Baiocchi, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 21:40

# Rebekah Mailly, Palmer, AK

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Rebekah Mailly, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 21:53

# Daniel Kurka, Eagle River, AK

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Daniel Kurka, Eagle River, AK 2/26/2024 21:57

# Natalie Phelps, Palmer, AK

We need to preserve and cherish the distinctions midwifery offers, which are different from medical care. Please do NOT put their oversight under a large group.

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Natalie Phelps, Palmer, AK 2/26/2024 22:04

# Mckenna Young, Wasilla, AK

Midwives are vital members of our communities, and these limiting factors would greatly harm our way of life.

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Mckenna Young, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 22:04

# Keren Strickland, Fairbanks, AK

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Keren Strickland, Fairbanks, AK 2/26/2024 22:37

# Lucille Abraham, Anchorage, AK

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Lucille Abraham, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 22:55

# Barbara Johnson, Anchorage, AK

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Barbara Johnson, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 22:57

# Sherry Wright, Anchorage, AK

Those who desire to keep their babies should be provided options. The current system is not broken.

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*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

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I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

## **UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES**

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Sherry Wright, Anchorage, AK 2/26/2024 23:04

# Isabel Blake, Wasilla, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Isabel Blake, Wasilla, AK 2/26/2024 23:19

# Amber Grammer, Wasilla, AK

We SUPPORT midwives and the oversight of a board that is directly FOR the midwives!

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Amber Grammer, Wasilla, AK 2/27/2024 3:08

# Miriam Woolly, Anchorage, AK

I would like the attention and pregnancy advice from a midwife and not only a doctor. I am pro unmediated child birth.

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Miriam Woolly, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 3:23

# Curt Mcclellan, Palmer, AK

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Curt Mcclellan, Palmer, AK 2/27/2024 5:02

# Melanie Firth, Anchor Point, AK

Please do not eliminate the efficient, informed and professional midwife board and delegate it to people who have no knowledge of midwivery. Thank you.

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Melanie Firth, Anchor Point, AK 2/27/2024 5:54

# Sarah Slater, Anchorage, AK

Midwifery is an essential healthcare need. Limiting and changing this practice will be detrimental to public health and accessibility.

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Sarah Slater, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 6:28

# Paul Houser, Palmer, AK

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Paul Houser, Palmer, AK 2/27/2024 7:34

# Kaitlyn Navarre, Palmer, AK

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Kaitlyn Navarre, Palmer, AK 2/27/2024 8:05

# Amelia Rowland, Big Lake, AK

Please rescind this action. We like having the Midwife Board

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Amelia Rowland, Big Lake, AK 2/27/2024 8:13

# Ticee Graham, Healy, AK

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Ticee Graham, Healy, AK 2/27/2024 8:43

# Lisa Bowe, Anchorage, AK

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Lisa Bowe, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 8:48

# **Timothy Fagan, Anchor Point, AK**

please do Not eliminate the direct entry midwives board my wife and I have used midwifes for all 4 of our children and the laws Alaska has regard midwifes, homeschooling and how we raise our children is the reason we live here start changing that and people will move to locations more favorable

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Timothy Fagan, Anchor Point, AK 2/27/2024 8:52

# Kris Chernik, Willow, HI

My daughter had a lovely experience with a natural water birth! She was close to a hospital in case of an emergency. Gave birth and went home 4 hours later. I had her C section, I believe unnecessarily and it was a nightmare and painful experience. Let babies be born without doctors and hospitals involved. More money, politics are involved in this decision. God made woman to bare children naturally.

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Kris Chernik, Willow, HI 2/27/2024 9:00

# Ellie Hatfield, Wasilla, AK

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Ellie Hatfield, Wasilla, AK 2/27/2024 9:10

# Talia Swanson, Wasilla, AK

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Talia Swanson, Wasilla, AK 2/27/2024 9:23

# Mike Alevander, Big Lake, AK

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Mike Alevander, Big Lake, AK 2/27/2024 9:26

# Margaret Rye, Palmer, AK

Midwives in Alaska provide a safe cost effective family friendly service please don't use government efficiency to ruin everything good about this long standing way of life in Alaska
Our midwives are a better safer option for birth
You efficiency effort will cause an increase in bureaucracy and the deaths of babies
Government efficiency is a fallacy

# Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Margaret Rye, Palmer, AK 2/27/2024 9:43

# Cynthia Allen, Anchorage, AK

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Cynthia Allen, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 10:00

# Tammy Eaker, Wasilla, AK

Please let the midwives do their jobs. They are needed professionals helping society.

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Tammy Eaker, Wasilla, AK 2/27/2024 10:06

# Robert Pugh, Eagle River, AK

Also vote YES on HB 175

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Robert Pugh, Eagle River, AK 2/27/2024 10:15

# Leia Lowe, Wasilla, AK

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Leia Lowe, Wasilla, AK 2/27/2024 10:45

# Dean Eisberg, Eagle River, AK

Please do the right thing.

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Dean Eisberg, Eagle River, AK 2/27/2024 10:59

# Toni Berkenbush, Anchorage, AK

As a mother of 6 who had midwives in attendance, and as a nurse who worked sometimes alongside them, I can attest to their professionalism and compassion. Eliminating the Board as it is now, and replacing medical/health professionals with administrators under Commerce, makes as much sense as trucking unions representing nurses.

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Toni Berkenbush, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 11:03

# Gary Pempek, Wasilla, AK

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Gary Pempek, Wasilla, AK 2/27/2024 11:16

# Olivia Chrastina, Healy, AK

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Olivia Chrastina, Healy, AK 2/27/2024 11:17

# Windy Perkins, Anchorage, AK

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Windy Perkins, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 11:21

# Miriam Friesen, Wasilla, AK

I personally have had an amazing experience with my midwives and I wouldn't trade it ever. Women should be able to choose how they want to birth and who is part of their support team. This bill would encroach on the privacy a woman deserves when pregnant and giving birth.

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Miriam Friesen, Wasilla, AK 2/27/2024 11:32

# Ruth Owens, Duson, AK

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### MIDWIVES PROVIDE CRITICAL CARE

<u>Eliminating the 5 Medical Professionals</u> from the *oversight, administration, and training* of Alaska's Midwives will lead to worse outcomes for *Alaskan mothers and babies*.

Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.* 

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Ruth Owens, Duson, AK 2/27/2024 11:43

# Jonathan Mailly, Klawock, AK

No to government overreach! No to restricting freedoms of families! Government leaders must respect and honor the sanctity of life and the God given right to life, liberty and property.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Jonathan Mailly, Klawock, AK 2/27/2024 11:49

# Noah Allsup, Anchorage, AK

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Noah Allsup, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 11:57

# Lindsay Gatch, Anchorage, AK

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Lindsay Gatch, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 12:01

# Thomas Bailey, Eagle River, AK

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Thomas Bailey, Eagle River, AK 2/27/2024 12:29

# Matthew Carey, Wasilla, AK

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Matthew Carey, Wasilla, AK 2/27/2024 12:53

# Shannon Schauermann, Palmer, AK

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Shannon Schauermann, Palmer, AK 2/27/2024 13:08

# Brenda Vincent, Anchorage, AK

Having previously worked for 12 years for the State of Alaska/Division of Healthcare Services as a Nurse surveyor, I had the opportunity to fully see the value of the Midwifery Board. Please reconsider disbanding this board. There is no one better to oversee the midwives throughout Alaska then a peer group and physician oversight. I fear that funneling this oversight down to the CCED will harm not only midwives but the population they serve due to a decrease in the "medical" oversight. This is not just about licensing of the midwives, there is a great need for the care they render to be reviewed and overseen.

Please, reconsider rescinding your order.

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Brenda Vincent, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 13:54

# Alisa Smith, Eagle River, AK

All three of my children were born using a midwife and I wouldn't choose any other way.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Alisa Smith, Eagle River, AK 2/27/2024 14:05

# Mary Allsup, Anchorage, AK

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Mary Allsup, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 14:47

# Nathan Schauermann, Palmer, AK

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Nathan Schauermann, Palmer, AK 2/27/2024 14:57

# Lenna Funk, Mcgrath, AK

Midwives are wonderful, so caring and observant of both mother and baby!!!! I know from experience!

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Lenna Funk, Mcgrath, AK 2/27/2024 15:34

# Susan Casey, Eagle River, AK

Alaska midwives are a necessary component for healthy Mom's and Babies in Alaska. Let their governing board continue to do their job. Don't try to fix a system that isn't broke!

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Susan Casey, Eagle River, AK 2/27/2024 16:07

# Samantha Bowe, Anchorage, AK

I have six children. Four were born in a hospital, one in a birth center under the care of a midwife and my youngest was born at home under the care of a midwife. While all my birth outcomes were positive with no complications, I much prefer the care I received with a midwife. It is more personal and tailored to the individual. I was more comfortable, and I felt 'heard'.

I also suffered a miscarriage at 19 weeks. I was scheduled for a D&C, a standard procedure for the circumstances. The day before for the scheduled procedure at a local hospital, I went into labor and delivered our baby at home. Unsure of what to expect during this time, my husband and I were in constant contact with a midwife who ended up coming to our home to check on me. This was not standard procedure. She went above and beyond in this difficult situation. I value the ability to make the choice of whether I will receive care at a hospital or with a midwife at a birth center or at home. The level of care with midwives, by far, exceeds any I have received in a hospital setting. Please do not approve EO 130.

# Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Samantha Bowe, Anchorage, AK 2/27/2024 18:03

# Crystal Dosser, Eagle River, AK

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Crystal Dosser, Eagle River, AK 2/27/2024 20:22

# **Gavin Saunders, Houston, AK**

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Gavin Saunders, Houston, AK 2/27/2024 21:01

# Renee Saunders, Houston, AK

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Renee Saunders, Houston, AK 2/27/2024 21:03

# Andrea Stiers, Wasilla, AK

Please keep the board of Direct-entry Midwives alive like they do their mom's! No to EO 130

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Andrea Stiers, Wasilla, AK 2/27/2024 22:02

# Patricia Hatfield, Wasilla, AK

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Patricia Hatfield, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 7:17

# Nicole Martin, Wasilla, AK

I've used midwives in an out of hospital birth center. Why are you wanting to jeopardize the care of thousands of Alaskan mothers and babies in the name of efficiency. We all know that government and efficiency are antithetical. Leave the well run midwives board alone!

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Nicole Martin, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 10:37

# Rebecca Russell, Anchorage, AK

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Rebecca Russell, Anchorage, AK 2/28/2024 11:57

# Toby Burke, Kenai, AK

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Toby Burke, Kenai, AK 2/28/2024 12:19

# Kimberly Fasser, Palmer, AK

Every mother and child deserve to be supported! Please make their safety a priority!!!

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Kimberly Fasser, Palmer, AK 2/28/2024 12:53

# Andrew Hanson, Wasilla, AK

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Andrew Hanson, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 14:15

# Dianna Boucher, Soldotna, AK

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Dianna Boucher, Soldotna, AK 2/28/2024 14:15

# Kristen Edwards, Wasilla, AK

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Kristen Edwards, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 14:30

# Joshua Brown, Palmer, AK

Protect our midwives and midwiferies! Midwives are miracle workers.

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Joshua Brown, Palmer, AK 2/28/2024 14:38

# Bryan Morris, Wasilla, AK

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Bryan Morris, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 14:41

# Donald Ross, Katy, AK

I lived in Alaska many years starting in 1964. I believe midwives add greatly to the safety of babies and pregnant women especially in rural areas. The midwives board help keep the practice of midwifery up to date on procedures and are necessary for those who desire a natural birth.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Donald Ross, Katy, AK 2/28/2024 14:43

# Julie Barrow, Anchorage, AK

Both my daughters were born with Midwives here in the Anchorage area. We currently have no plans to add a third baby to our family, but if we did I would absolutely want the same experience that we had with our midwives with our other babies. Midwives are an undervalued treasure in the medical field. Ensuring the support of midwives in Alaska is critical, eliminating the board would cause more harm than good. I see no reason to eliminate this board of professionals. EO 130 absolutely does not have my support!

# Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:*

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Julie Barrow, Anchorage, AK 2/28/2024 14:44

# Albert Lane, Eagle River, AK

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Albert Lane, Eagle River, AK 2/28/2024 14:51

# Roberta Cannon, Eagle River, Ak, AK

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Roberta Cannon, Eagle River, Ak, AK 2/28/2024 15:04

# Jessica Venhaus, Palmer, AK

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Jessica Venhaus, Palmer, AK 2/28/2024 15:05

# Larry Clement, Anchorage, AK

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Larry Clement, Anchorage, AK 2/28/2024 15:21

# Ellen Lee, Wasilla, AK

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Ellen Lee, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 15:25

# Talia Hess, Wasilla, AK

I have had all four of my children through midwife care, all healthy and natural births, no complications for mother or child. I think midwifery care superior to any other care, I have heard many negative experiences through hospital care because they do not personally care about the patient, it's just another person they want to get in and out as fast as possible. Midwives truly care about mother and baby. I support midwives 100% over hospital care.

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Talia Hess, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 15:28

# Barbara Urban, Wasilla, AK

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Barbara Urban, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 15:31

## Vivian Ball, Wasilla, AK

I had a midwife for the birth of my baby, it was the most calm and peaceful experience! Will definitely choose a midwife if I have another baby!

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Vivian Ball, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 15:37

# Richelle Sonnenberg, Wasilla, AK

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Submitted via the Alaska Right to Life Committee PO Box 201134 | Anchorage, AK 99520 Info@AlaskaRightToLife.org | (907) 232-2211

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Richelle Sonnenberg, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 15:40

# Sarah Sonnenberg, Wasilla, AK

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Sarah Sonnenberg, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 15:43

## Laura Burke, Kenai, AK

Midwives offer a safe and affordable birthing option. I delivered 4 babies in states that made home births illegal - and rather than have my babies in the legally-mandated birthing center or hospital, I chose unassisted childbirth with my husband being my sole provider. When midwives are taken away, some people, like me, still will not go to a hospital because they do not offer the model of care that midwives do, patient-centered and patient-driven. I have been given excellent care by midwives, for prenatal, birthing, postpartum, and miscarriages. Midwives care for the mother and the baby and are one of the reasons we settled in Alaska because they were legal, safe, and affordable here. Please keep this option available for Alaskans. Independent-minded Alaskans want the individualized care of a midwife, not the assembly line methods of doctors and hospitals. I received midwife care for 7 births in Alaska.

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Laura Burke, Kenai, AK 2/28/2024 15:46

## Gabi Alexander, Wasilla, AK

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Gabi Alexander, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 15:49

## Robert Katsur, Wasilla, AK

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Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.* 

PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

### UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Robert Katsur, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 15:54

## Massa Morsell, Anchorage, AK

Please keep Midwives as a service to expecting mothers.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

Additionally, I am urging you to *support* <u>HB 175</u>, which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

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Massa Morsell, Anchorage, AK 2/28/2024 15:54

## Jennifer Psenak, Palmer, AK

Midwifery care is VITAL to the state of Alaska, please do not remove this board. Thank you.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Jennifer Psenak, Palmer, AK 2/28/2024 16:00

# Kelin Boylan, Anchorage, AK

We need midwives!

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Kelin Boylan, Anchorage, AK 2/28/2024 16:02

# Jim Schulz, Anchorage, AK

I encourage you to not take away this valuable asset to mothers, babies and our communities.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Jim Schulz, Anchorage, AK 2/28/2024 16:30

## Darin Bertolini, Wasilla, AK

The Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies costing the state nothing and providing a necessary service.

Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is a critical part of the care Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day across the state to include the myriad of hard to reach villages.

Under the training, oversight, and administration of the Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Board, Midwife attended births have produced lower Maternal Mortality (0 recorded maternal deaths in Midwife attended births) compared to 6-20 under Doctor directed and hospital births.

17% fewer Cesarean sections.

Improved breastfeeding experiences and outcomes.
Eliminating the 5 Medical Professionals from the oversight,
administration, and training of Alaska's Midwives will lead to worse
outcomes for Alaskan mothers and babies.

Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is a critical part of the care Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

I urge you to rescind or disapprove EO 130 and protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for themselves and their babies.

respectfully, Darin Bertolini

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Darin Bertolini, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 16:33

## **Grace Frit, Anchorage, AK**

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Grace Frit, Anchorage, AK 2/28/2024 16:33

# Taylor Ball, Wasilla, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Taylor Ball, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 16:44

## Levi Alexander, Wasilla, AK

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Levi Alexander, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 17:03

# Heather Schwarzenberger, Wasilla, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Heather Schwarzenberger, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 17:24

# Will Turnage, Wasilla, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Will Turnage, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 17:34

## David Durst, Palmer, AK

My wife has had exceptional prenatal care with midwives. Let them be regulated under the existing board. Eliminating this board moves the regulation from members who have to be confirmed by the legislature (and therefore indirectly are held accountable by the people) to an unelected employee or group of employees of the state who cannot be held accountable to voters. This is a foolish choice. I strongly urge the governor to RECIND EO130 and the legislature to DISAPPROVE of EO130 immediately. All governing bodies need to held accountable, otherwise authoritarianism is inevitable.

## Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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David Durst, Palmer, AK 2/28/2024 18:21

## Kirstin Hills, Wasilla, AK

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Kirstin Hills, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 18:45

# Cindy Turner, Wasilla, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Cindy Turner, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 19:10

# Brandy Turner, Wasilla, AK

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Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

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Brandy Turner, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 19:27

# Jsn Weaver, Anchorage, AK

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Jsn Weaver, Anchorage, AK 2/28/2024 20:20

# Amanda Thompson, Anchorage, AK

Dear Gov. Dunleavy,

Expert midwives were crucial in saving the life of my daughter and the much smoother and less costly delivery of my son. I understand the budget needs to be trimmed but reducing the amount of expert midwives in the medical board could lead to less protections for this timeless profession. I urge you to continue seeking revenues and cost savings from truly glutinous budgets like education and marijuana regulations.

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Amanda Thompson, Anchorage, AK 2/28/2024 20:25

# Russell D. Wilson, Chugiak, AK

If it works, don't fix it! Midwifery in Alaska works and has an excellent track record. Mess with it and you will have the same results as when the AMA worked to get rid of the visiting nurse programs, increased costs, jammed packed emergency rooms, decreased levels of public understanding and increased levels of social illnesses and disease.

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Russell D. Wilson, Chugiak, AK 2/28/2024 20:41

## Sharon Person, Sutton, AK

I have been personally impacted by Alaska's midwives, having had them serve me through four pregnancies and births. One birth was at a hospital, and experiencing both worlds I can testify to the incredible knowledge and wisdom that midwives carry down through generations. We need midwives, and we need them overseeing their own relm.

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Sharon Person, Sutton, AK 2/28/2024 20:42

# Dorothy Herrick, Soldotna, AK

This would be a disservice to pregnant women.

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Dorothy Herrick, Soldotna, AK 2/28/2024 20:59

# Kaitlyn Herrick, Kenai, AK

This bill is un-American. You are impeding our right as mothers to choose.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Kaitlyn Herrick, Kenai, AK 2/28/2024 21:16

# Alicia Musial, Wasilla, AK

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Alicia Musial, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 21:21

# Timothy Smith, Eagle River, AK

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Timothy Smith, Eagle River, AK 2/28/2024 21:23

## Colton Herrick, Kenai, AK

this bill goes against parents rights to choose what is best for them and there future families and health.

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Colton Herrick, Kenai, AK 2/28/2024 21:24

# Betty Davis, Wasilla, AK

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Betty Davis, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 21:33

# Alysha Devine, Wasilla, AK

I love midwives and have had a great experience with my midwifery for my second and third babies so far. I support them and want them to have a voice in Alaska.

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Alysha Devine, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 22:24

## Erin Owens, Wasilla, AK

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Erin Owens, Wasilla, AK 2/28/2024 22:43

# Kelly Caraway, Wasilla, AK

Midwives perform a very ancient and valuable service in our communities. Many women feel much more comfortable utilizing the very personalized services of a midwife rather than a hospital, and midwives follow very practical and safe policies for when an expectant mother should seek medical attention. Midwives are an important choice option for women, and their self-regulating board keeps them credible and safe. Please keep this important choice available for women and do not pass EO 130.

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### MIDWIVES PROVIDE CRITICAL CARE

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Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care* <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.

### PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

#### UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Kelly Caraway, Wasilla, AK 2/29/2024 0:27

## Ann Marie Svedin, Palmer, AK

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Ann Marie Svedin, Palmer, AK 2/29/2024 1:55

# Kathy Haywood, Sterling, AK

Of three births, my midwife assisted birth was the best experience. My midwife did a far better job of bringing my baby into this world that the doctors who delivered my first two children.

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Kathy Haywood, Sterling, AK 2/29/2024 2:12

# Bethel Belisle, Anchorage, AK

Midwives need to be regulated by a board of peers not by an office worker who has no idea what midwives do. The board is efficient, working hard for the women and babies of Alaska.

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Bethel Belisle, Anchorage, AK 2/29/2024 4:13

# Jonathan Beals, Fairbanks, AK

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Jonathan Beals, Fairbanks, AK 2/29/2024 5:30

# Janice Stidd, Lincoln, NE

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Janice Stidd, Lincoln, NE 2/29/2024 5:36

# Ethan Malski, Fairbanks, AK

Mike, don't mess with a good thing. You are getting out of controls with these executive orders.

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Ethan Malski, Fairbanks, AK 2/29/2024 6:34

# Darcey Tredway, Palmer, AK

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Darcey Tredway, Palmer, AK 2/29/2024 6:37

# Kathleen Peters, Palmer, AK

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Kathleen Peters, Palmer, AK 2/29/2024 7:36

# Nancy White, Seldovia, AK

These midwives offer excellent care and support to women. We have some of the best here in Alaska and they should continue to serve in our state.

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Nancy White, Seldovia, AK 2/29/2024 8:05

# Rhonda Frost-Gillen, North Pole, AK

Please rescind this, midwives are a great alternative and generally a lot cheaper than hospitalization.

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Rhonda Frost-Gillen, North Pole, AK 2/29/2024 8:34

# Elise Martin, Wasilla, AK

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Elise Martin, Wasilla, AK 2/29/2024 8:47

# Linda Sickler, Anchorage, AK

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Linda Sickler, Anchorage, AK 2/29/2024 9:01

## Rachel Rekow, Palmer, AK

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Rachel Rekow, Palmer, AK 2/29/2024 9:04

# Kathleen Williams, Chugiak, AK

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Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.* 

PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

### **UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES**

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Kathleen Williams, Chugiak, AK 2/29/2024 9:13

# Joyce Mobley, Anchorage, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Joyce Mobley, Anchorage, AK 2/29/2024 9:25

# Elianna Edi, Anchorage, AK

My midwives assisted me throughout my pregnancy and expertly used their skills to help me birth my daughter. They are more knowledgeable about the physiological birth process than a regular doctor and gave me peace during my pregnancy and delivery process. They are in a unique position to help women and are able to give a personalized approach to each situation. I will continue to use midwives in my future pregnancies as I have seen how beneficial and knowledgeable the are. They should be able to govern themselves as they know the situations they face and the women they help.

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Elianna Edi, Anchorage, AK 2/29/2024 9:33

# Patricia Wilson, Chugiak, AK

Protect the midwives board----

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Patricia Wilson, Chugiak, AK 2/29/2024 10:43

## Michelle Lucero, Fairbanks, AK

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Michelle Lucero, Fairbanks, AK 2/29/2024 11:03

# Josephine Stack, Fairbanks, AK

Governor Dunleavy,

Please do all you can to protect the unborn lives of our most vulnerable Alaskans by rescind and disapprove EO130 and protect the needed rights of Alaska's Midwives. These Babies and their Mother (and Fathers) are the future of Alaska.

## Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Josephine Stack, Fairbanks, AK 2/29/2024 11:31

# Donna Offord, Wasilla, AK

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Donna Offord, Wasilla, AK 2/29/2024 11:33

# Aurora Fagan, Anchor Point, AK

All four of my births have been midwife-attended. There are many of us Alaskans who prefer this model for prenatal, birth, and postpartum care, and we prefer knowing that midwives are among the medical professionals overseeing birth regulations in Alaska. I see no good reason to eliminate the Board.

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Aurora Fagan, Anchor Point, AK 2/29/2024 11:48

# Katelyn Miller, Wasilla, AK

I have been more than happy with my care through both my first and current pregnancy through midwiferies. They have provided safe, comprehensive care. I am not just a number, but a person they get to know and treat with respect. Not only respect for my wishes, but respect my thoughts or ideas regarding what my body needs. Midwifery care statistically leads to fewer traumatic births, complications or necessary interventions. To take the option of midwifery care would be a gross mistreatment of mothers and their unborn children.

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Katelyn Miller, Wasilla, AK 2/29/2024 11:49

# Pamela Rietman, Anchorage, AK

Quit trying to eliminate women's health care!

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Pamela Rietman, Anchorage, AK 2/29/2024 11:58

## Aldena Woody, Fairbanks, AK

Please protect this choice for pregnant mothers.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Aldena Woody, Fairbanks, AK 2/29/2024 12:17

# Carol Odgers, Wasilla, AK

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Carol Odgers, Wasilla, AK 2/29/2024 12:58

# Cu Peterson, Ooltewah, TN

I di not live in Alaska, but I feel strongly about this freedom being removed.women need this option and should not be forced to use other facilities.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Cu Peterson, Ooltewah, TN 2/29/2024 13:09

## Ian Mckane, Emmonak, AK

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Ian Mckane, Emmonak, AK 2/29/2024 13:56

# Christie Valerio, Anchorage, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

Additionally, I am urging you to *support* <u>HB 175</u>, which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

## SAFER BIRTHS AND HEALTHIER BABIES

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Christie Valerio, Anchorage, AK 2/29/2024 14:11

# Meghan Mason, Anchorage, AK

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Meghan Mason, Anchorage, AK 2/29/2024 16:21

## Shannon W., Fairbanks, AK

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Shannon W., Fairbanks, AK 2/29/2024 17:13

## Temple Berryman, Willow, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Temple Berryman, Willow, AK 2/29/2024 17:14

## Allison Justus, Anchorage, AK

This sounds like something many or most pro-life and pro-choice people readily agree on—pregnant mothers deserve freedom of choice in access to high-quality care. Nothing can replace midwives' expertise!

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Allison Justus, Anchorage, AK 2/29/2024 17:18

## Jamie Marinelli Steinberg, Eagle River, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Jamie Marinelli Steinberg, Eagle River, AK 2/29/2024 18:15

## Lisa Franzmann, Sterling, AK

Governor Dunleavy,

I feel strongly that Alaskan women need options to birthing care. Please rescind or disapprove EO 130 and PROTECT Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for "themselves" and their babies. Nursing mother's find greater help with nursing from their midwives. I delivered 2 babies under the care of a midwife and 1 baby under the care of a doctor at the hospital. I had a far better experience delivering under the care of a midwife!!! Mother of 3! Grandma of 3!

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Lisa Franzmann, Sterling, AK 2/29/2024 18:34

# Patrick Nolan, Anchorage, AK

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Patrick Nolan, Anchorage, AK 2/29/2024 18:43

# **Eddy Burris, Big Lake, AK**

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**Eddy Burris, Big Lake, AK** 2/29/2024 19:28

# Nancy Redding, Nancyredding@Live.Com, AK

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Nancy Redding, Nancyredding@Live.Com, AK 2/29/2024 19:33

## Marsha Klerk, Wasilla, AK

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Marsha Klerk, Wasilla, AK 2/29/2024 19:46

# Kayleigh Shryack, Chugiak, AK

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Kayleigh Shryack, Chugiak, AK 2/29/2024 20:25

## Jane Bador, North Pole, AK

I had exceptional care for from Fairbanks midwives for my first two healthy births. My third was complicated early on and the midwife I was seeing immediately referred me to an obstetrician and all went well because of the midwives early detection and referral.

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Jane Bador, North Pole, AK 2/29/2024 21:54

# Stephen O'Brien, Palmer, AK

It's a mother's right to choose.

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Stephen O'Brien, Palmer, AK 2/29/2024 23:30

# Michael Widney, Big Lake, AK

They are essential. Now more than ever.

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Michael Widney, Big Lake, AK 2/29/2024 23:53

# Geraldine Hoffmeister, Glennallen, AK

Please help Alaska midwives.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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**Geraldine Hoffmeister, Glennallen, AK** 3/1/2024 3:15

# Laura Ryan, Lebanon, AK

As a former citizen of Wasilla and a patient three times of competent midwives from Mat-Su Midwifery I implore you to change this executive order and to maintain the board of the Direct Entry Midwives. Midwives have been well trained under this board to perform a vital service to those wishing a more personal, hands on approach to prenatal, labor and delivery, and postnatal care. Why change something that was working well and was providing safe, effective care for Alaskan mothers? Please reconsider this and also ask the question who is this order really benefiting? I don't think it's the Alaskan women.

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Laura Ryan, Lebanon, AK 3/1/2024 4:43

# Abigail Masison, Wasilla, AK

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Abigail Masison, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 6:01

# Melanie Peterson, Chugiak, AK

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Melanie Peterson, Chugiak, AK 3/1/2024 6:06

# Mary Hutchins, Wasilla, AK

Mr Dunleavy, our family are Huge supporters of yours & were absolutely shocked to hear the news about your executive order to change how the midwives are overseen etc. This would be expected from a liberal Democrat but are blindsided this was done by you. Please re-consider this erroneous decision & speak to these midwives. They are currently profitable so why attack them? They make huge differences in families lives, including our beautiful grandchildren born with the love & care of midwives. Alaska is sliding down a slippery slope of looking like the lower 48!! Please reconsider! We declare that truth & light will prevail. We pray blessings over you and those advising you.

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Mary Hutchins, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 6:17

## Nicole Fuhrmeister, North Pole, AK

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Nicole Fuhrmeister, North Pole, AK 3/1/2024 7:09

# Alyson Tuomi, Palmer, AK

Rescind the bill & leave midwives alone. This is not a place where the government needs to have any say.

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Alyson Tuomi, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 7:23

# Bethany Spang, Soldotna, AK

I am so grateful to midwives who have assisted my in giving birth to half my 6 children. Please don't start taking away the part they play or opening doors that can lead to that.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Bethany Spang, Soldotna, AK 3/1/2024 7:45

# Angela Huhta, Wasilla, AK

I disagree with, and urge you to please rescind EO 130. Mothers right to choose the care they feel is best for them and their baby is critical! I have 6 children, the first was a hospital birth. The rest with midwives. The stress levels and medical interventions with my 1st were significantly higher than the rest. I urge Governor Dunleavy to talk to mothers, this would greatly impact their lives.

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Angela Huhta, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 8:06

## Kambri Parks, Palmer, MN

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Kambri Parks, Palmer, MN 3/1/2024 8:10

## Katelin Landa, Wasilla, AK

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Katelin Landa, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 8:11

## Rachel Pasanen, Wasilla, AK

I am an Alaska mom and I like to have all the options open to me.

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Rachel Pasanen, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 8:12

# Trina Ojalehto, Wasilla, AK

Please, leave the midwifery board alone.

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Trina Ojalehto, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 8:20

# Tiffany Huhta, Menahga, AK

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Tiffany Huhta, Menahga, AK 3/1/2024 8:22

# Amy Woods, Willow, AK

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Amy Woods, Willow, AK 3/1/2024 8:29

## Maranda Bower, Palmer, AK

My name is Maranda Bower, and I am a resident of Palmer, Alaska. I am writing to you as a concerned constituent regarding Executive Order 130, which threatens to dissolve the Board of Direct-Entry Midwifery in our state.

As a mother of four children, all born in Alaska with the assistance of direct-entry midwives, and as the owner of an international postpartum training company that has worked extensively with midwives, I am deeply troubled by the potential consequences of EO130.

EO130 claims to aim for cost-saving measures and administrative efficiency, but this justification is unfounded. The Board of Direct-Entry Midwifery is a self-governing board of volunteers with a surplus budget of over \$70,000. Dissolving this board would not only incur unnecessary costs for the state, push their vital work unto already overworked and untrained state workers hands, but also disrupt the vital services provided by midwives.

One of the most concerning aspects of EO130 is its impact on midwives' ability to bill Medicaid, which constitutes a significant portion of their income. Without the Board of Direct-Entry Midwifery, midwives will lose their ability to bill Medicaid. Dispite statements saying otherwise, the Medicaid Provider Billing Manual, Section 1, page 5, states "Individuals who have a current certificate for the Alaska Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives to practice as direct-entry midwives may enroll with Alaska Medical Assistance." Meaning they cannot qualify for medicard billing without the board, jeopardizing their livelihoods and the accessibility of midwifery care for countless Alaskans.

Additionally, the dissolution of the board would disproportionately affect direct-entry midwives compared to certified nurse midwives

(CNMs), who operate under a different board. This disparity in impact underscores the urgency of rejecting EO130.

We cannot ignore the potential consequences of EO130 on maternal and postpartum health outcomes in Alaska. Study after study has demonstrated the cost-effectiveness and superior health outcomes of direct-entry midwifery care. Disregarding these facts in the name of efficiency would be reckless and harmful to our communities.

As your constituent, I urge you to prioritize the well-being of Alaskans over political considerations. The power to make the right choice is in your hands. Please vote no on EO130 to protect access to midwifery care in Alaska.

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Maranda Bower, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 8:31

# Chrisann Laulainen, Wasilla, AK

Please protect midwifery care, we NEED our midwives!

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Chrisann Laulainen, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 8:32

# Jennifer Schmid, Wasilla, AK

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Jennifer Schmid, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 8:33

# Wendy Baumeister, Anchorage, AK

I gave birth to my two daughters at a birthing center under the direct supervision of very capable midwives. It was a wonderful experience and I would not have done it any other way. Please support our midwives in Alaska as they provide such a service to our mothers.

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Wendy Baumeister, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 8:40

# Jessica Wuollet, Wasilla, AK

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Jessica Wuollet, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 8:47

# Rosanna Ylitalo, Wasilla, AK

All of my children have been born with the assistance of a midwife here in the matsu valley! Alaska has one of the best environments for choice in natural birth. It makes perfect sense to continue an oversight board that is specifically for midwives! I will be choosing midwife care regardless so it sure would be nice if it remained protected.

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Rosanna Ylitalo, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 8:47

# Arianna Mattila, Houston, AK

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Arianna Mattila, Houston, AK 3/1/2024 8:49

# Felicity Young, Wasilla, AK

As a woman who has had babies with both obstetric care and midwifery care I know that there is a place for both fields. My regular provider is a midwife. I rely upon her and trust her judgement. I would have a less trusting relationship with a provider overseen by the Department of Commerce.

In the last 20 years midwifery has become more accessible and I think doing away with the board of midwives will serve to marginalize midwives. This is a field that needs oversight by fellow professionals in that field who understand the unique issues involved.

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Felicity Young, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 8:59

# Brier Nitz, Wasilla, AK

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Brier Nitz, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 9:05

# Destiny Woko, Anchorage, AK

A mother's right to choose who is able to assist in her pregnancy is important. Not only does it decrease stress for the mother, but it ultimately helps the child. I support the mother's right to choose to have a midwife for her pregnancy.

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Destiny Woko, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 9:18

# Laura Suarez, Chugiak, AK

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Laura Suarez, Chugiak, AK 3/1/2024 9:20

# Morgan Johnson, Palmer, AK

The two midwives I have used in Alaska have both been very knowledgeable about births and what to do in emergency situations. I am very comfortable using midwives and would like to continue to use them.

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### PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Morgan Johnson, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 9:26

# Dianne Merrill, Talkeetna, AK

GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY please rescind this dreadful, costly, unlawful EO130 bill. I delivered all 3 of my beautiful, healthy babies at home 50 plus years ago with the help of certified midwives. My daughter Tiffany did the same with 4 beautiful, healthy babies and experienced midwives. Please rescind EO130 as it is definitely not in the best interests of freedom loving families whom you have promised to protect.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Dianne Merrill, Talkeetna, AK 3/1/2024 9:30

# Cecilia Walters, Wasilla, AK

What these midwives do is make a difference and add quality to life of life for lives. It's comforting and helps to restore faith in humanity. Thank you so very much. Have a blessed day and more...

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Cecilia Walters, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 9:33

# Carol Johnson, Palmer, AK

I'm a NICU RN and I support these midwives in the care and concern for these mothers and babies in their line of work. You will not get a better care of the whole child-bearing approach than what these midwives teach and promote. These midwives have a sixth sense that is unlike any other.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Carol Johnson, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 9:37

# **Brooke Cochran, Palmer, AK**

Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is a critical part of the care Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

I urge you to rescind or disapprove EO 130 and protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for themselves and their babies.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Brooke Cochran, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 9:52

# Trevor Cochran, Palmer, AK

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Trevor Cochran, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 9:56

# Mary Sears, Wasilla, AK

I support this issue. Thank you,

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Mary Sears, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 10:07

# Dayspring Mathew, Eagle River, AK

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Dayspring Mathew, Eagle River, AK 3/1/2024 10:08

# David Billings, Wasilla, AK

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David Billings, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 10:27

## Laura Abts, Eagle River, AK

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.

Imagine telling those same pregnant mothers 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.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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#### PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

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Laura Abts, Eagle River, AK 3/1/2024 10:40

# Taunnie Boothby, Willow, AK

Please support Alaska's Midwives....

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Submitted via the Alaska Right to Life Committee PO Box 201134 | Anchorage, AK 99520 Info@AlaskaRightToLife.org | (907) 232-2211

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Taunnie Boothby, Willow, AK 3/1/2024 10:40

## Therese Spaic, Palmer, AK

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Therese Spaic, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 11:30

## Maria Sergeeva, Palmer, AK

First of all, it truly seems justification in general is lacking for this move. Secondly, the board is financially independent if that's what you're looking to see (I would argue with all the other nonsense funded by tax dollars that is rationally hard to explain, this part is less important, but if that's the filter you use, there you go: not a tax drain or a budget item.)

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I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

#### UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Maria Sergeeva, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 11:45

# Maureen Crumley, Anchorage, AK

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Maureen Crumley, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 13:06

## Jenny Hanestad, Palmer, AK

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Jenny Hanestad, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 13:31

# Stacey Thurman, Willow, AK

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Stacey Thurman, Willow, AK 3/1/2024 13:42

# Kylie Rolbiecki, Willow, AK

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Kylie Rolbiecki, Willow, AK 3/1/2024 13:53

### Reagan Banks, Wasilla, AK

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Reagan Banks, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 14:18

## Noelle Locke, Eagle River, AK

I believe that Midwives need to determine the standards and needs of their own profession--not the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

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Noelle Locke, Eagle River, AK 3/1/2024 14:21

### Cathy Law, Anchorage, AK

Using a midwife for my first 2 pregnancies (2000 & 2003) saved me over \$100 a month on doctor appointments as well as hospital admission for both me and the babies. Our household could not have afforded the hospital and my sons are now 23 & 20, healthy and happy since birth. Please rescind and disapporve EO 130 giving mothers the right to choose the best care for their babies and their bodies.

Thank you!

Cathy Law

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Cathy Law, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 14:29

# Jonathan Morgan, Palmer, AK

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### **Brandie Tullos, Willow, AK**

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Brandie Tullos, Willow, AK 3/1/2024 14:45

### Andrew Giddens, Willow, AK

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Andrew Giddens, Willow, AK 3/1/2024 14:53

## Carolyn Landa, Wasilla, AK

Alaska midwives are a huge benefit to our community. They have been at the birth of 8 out of my 13 children. I can assure you, they have a good thing going. They can offer things that the hospitals and M.D.s cannot. I had a c-section this last Monday. There is a large chance that it could have been prevented if I was in the hands of the midwives. Please, please, please, do not shut them down or make their lives miserable with regulations. Reach out to me if you have questions. Thanks!

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Carolyn Landa, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 14:55

# Synthia Holmes, Eagle River, AK

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Synthia Holmes, Eagle River, AK 3/1/2024 15:02

# Lisa Terwilliger, Anchorage, AK

The board is functioning efficiently and efficiently as is. Changing it now could have intended negative consequences that are unforeseen at this time.

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Lisa Terwilliger, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 15:03

# Hannah Allsup, Anchorage, AK

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Hannah Allsup, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 15:06

# Judy Miller, Fairbanks, AK

Dear Governor,
This is a needed service for the safety of women giving birth and the baby's safety.
Please reconsider.
Thank you

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Judy Miller, Fairbanks, AK 3/1/2024 15:12

## Barbara Melland, Wasilla, AK

It is a volunteer board of professuonals, Dunleavy EO makes no sense. Why be so heavy handed.

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Barbara Melland, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 15:17

## Patricia Oneil, Wasilla, AK

I used a direct entry mid wife for two home births. If anything we should make it easier to for mid wives to perform births. Leaving it in professional hands instead of the hands of beaurocrats is way more effective. It was a life changing experience to use a mid wife and I received better care than those using doctors. The approach is much more hands on wholistic. Reducing oversite of doctors so that mid wives could perform births in remote areas would be a much better executive order. Let's make real change.

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Patricia Oneil, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 15:18

# Ruth Pearcy, Wasilla, AK

To Whom It May Concern
Please do not pass EO130.
Please stop any forward movement with this
Executive Order.
This would greatly endanger the health &
the well-being of many families in Alaska.
Respectfully,
Ruth Pearcy

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Ruth Pearcy, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 15:19

# Angela Westfall, Chugiak, AK

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Angela Westfall, Chugiak, AK 3/1/2024 15:23

# Misti Musgrave, Wasilla, AK

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Misti Musgrave, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 15:25

# Floyd King, Willow, AK

I AGREE. THANK YOU, MIDWIVES, FOR ALL YOU DO TO HELP OUR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

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Floyd King, Willow, AK 3/1/2024 15:29

# Mary Anne Green, Anchorage, AK

I do not approve of getting rid of midwives.

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Mary Anne Green, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 15:48

# Kathleen Choate, Anchorage, AK

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Kathleen Choate, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 15:51

## Naomi Miller, Talkeetna, Ak, AK

I would love for the midwives in Alaska to keep their freedom to practice natural births for moms. Thank you!

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Naomi Miller, Talkeetna, Ak, AK 3/1/2024 15:54

# Alana Davis, Eagle River, AK

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Alana Davis, Eagle River, AK 3/1/2024 16:12

## Anita Brannen, Aurora, AK

Since when does the Department of Commerce, Community and Economics know anything about the midwife business? They don't. All government agencies have a notorious record of making everything worse and are not to be trusted. Please keep midwifery were it belongs and where it has been successfully operating for years

Despite my Colorado address, my family roots in Alaska go back to 1906. I still have family in Alaska, and in my heart I will always be an Alaskan.

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Anita Brannen, Aurora, AK 3/1/2024 16:23

## Noel Collins, Soldotna, AK

Midwives have been Angels in a woman's life for many, many generations????Under many circumstances??

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I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the</u> <u>best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

### UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Noel Collins, Soldotna, AK 3/1/2024 16:34

## Deb Melton, Willow, AK

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Submitted via the Alaska Right to Life Committee PO Box 201134 | Anchorage, AK 99520 Info@AlaskaRightToLife.org | (907) 232-2211

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Deb Melton, Willow, AK 3/1/2024 16:41

# Kelcie Hansen, Anchorage, AK

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Kelcie Hansen, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 17:16

## Jenny Paajanen, Eagle River, AK

I had a hospital birth for my first born. It was not a good experience. Second child was born at home in the water. Way less pain and had a healthy baby boy. My midwife showed more knowledge and care than anything I received at Providence.

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Jenny Paajanen, Eagle River, AK 3/1/2024 17:28

## Joanna Wilson, Palmer, AK

I have had the best birth experiences with my midwives. I think they operate just fine under the oversight that they currently have and placing them under new oversight is not doing mothers and future mothers any favors. Please do not bring the community of midwives under the broader jurisdiction of the medical community. I have given birth to 5 children. 2 in hospitals, 1 in a birth center, and 2 at home. My home births had by far the best outcomes of any.

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Joanna Wilson, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 17:35

# Christina Kelley, Anchorage, AK

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Christina Kelley, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 17:38

# Tina Thompson, Anchorage, AK

I had the first of my 5 children in the hospital, the other 4 at home. The care I received from my midwives highly exceeded my first experience in every way. The system is working the way that it is. Don't bugger it up!

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Tina Thompson, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 18:07

# Lesie Firth, Homer, AK

Alaska women's health care options do not need to be dictated to by the department of commerce!

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Lesie Firth, Homer, AK 3/1/2024 19:13

## Maranatha Jubilee, Wasilla, AK

Midwives are precious to our community. And are a special unit in of their own, and do not need to be run by people with less understanding and skill within that scope of practice. Thank you for upholding our quality of community and family

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Maranatha Jubilee, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 19:54

# Edna Resari, Anchorage, AK

please Keep the Alaska's Midwifery program going to help pregnant Mothers to best care for themselves and their babies. Thank you. Edna Resari

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Edna Resari, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 20:09

## Taylur Steele, Wasilla, AK

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Taylur Steele, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 20:31

## Kristan Murrow, Anchorage, AK

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Kristan Murrow, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 20:54

## Danielle Bourgeois, Wasilla, AK

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Danielle Bourgeois, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 21:00

## Trista Fowler, Wasilla, AK

Although the Lord directed every one of our nine children to be C-Sectioned at a hospital, we believe 100% that a woman should have the right and privilege to have all benefits that are provided through the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives and the right to have the choice of a mid-wife and place of birth of choice. We are grateful for the hospitals and doctors that do their service as well, but rescind and disapprove of EO 130 and allow women to choose the care for them and their babies that they would each choose best. It's not the governments choice!!! Midwives are necessary and vital to bringing in such great treasures in to this world....a newborn baby!!!! In fact, they are of such great use at times, because it is so much more personal care for a mother and the baby!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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Trista Fowler, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 21:02

## Sharon Knowlton, Kasilof, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

Additionally, I am urging you to *support* <u>HB 175</u>, which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

## SAFER BIRTHS AND HEALTHIER BABIES

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Sharon Knowlton, Kasilof, AK 3/1/2024 21:07

## Laura Christiansen, Palmer, AK

I am a woman who has been very grateful to have been cared for by Alaskan midwives, as have many of my friends. I received wonderful care from the Wasilla Midwifery, as have many of my friends. It would be a crying shame to not have them here and able to work throughout Alaska.

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Laura Christiansen, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 21:21

# Tiffany Dotti, Eagle River, AK

I utilized birthing centers and midwives for my labor and deliveries and would hate to have done so in a hospital setting. Please don't take this option away from other Alaskan women. Women deserve the right to have options as to how and where they want to birth their children.

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Tiffany Dotti, Eagle River, AK 3/1/2024 21:30

# Judy Mcclure, Anchorage, AK

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Judy Mcclure, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 21:37

# Lindarose Weppner, Anchorage, AK

Absolutely stop EO 130. EO 130 is a horrible plan.

I am a Registered Nurse.

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Lindarose Weppner, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 21:39

# Rebecca Standifird, Wasilla, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Rebecca Standifird, Wasilla, AK 3/1/2024 21:43

## Sierra Nelson, Sutton, AK

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Sierra Nelson, Sutton, AK 3/1/2024 21:44

# Irene Quednow, Anchorage, AK

Governor Dunleavy / all Legislators,

Instead of eliminating a 5 member board that has been operating proficiently and knows the subject matter, maybe you should consider reducing the number of the 435 DCCED administrators. Just like in so many other instances, what works gets eliminated and the overblown administration stays in place. In addition to that, most midwives oppose abortion. With the rise of violence against Pregnancy Centers nationwide, including Alaska, I can see why one could come to the conclusion that this is another calculated blow against the pro-life movement rather than about "inefficiencies". A choice is only a choice if there are at least two options to choose from! Otherwise it is just: "Do you want peas or do you want peas?" And you are eliminating a mother's choice as there is nothing in this EO that prevents the elimination of midwifery altogether. Governor Dunleavy, I urge you to rescind or diapprove executive order EO130. Thank you for your time.

# Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:*

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Irene Quednow, Anchorage, AK 3/1/2024 22:26

## Carol Dorman, Palmer, AK

I have videotaped midwife-attended home births AND midwifeattended hospital births. I can attest to the superior experience midwives provide compared to the nominal attention provided by nursing staff and doctors. We should do everything we possibly can to support midwifery.

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Carol Dorman, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 23:28

# Cally Arts, Willow, AK

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Cally Arts, Willow, AK 3/1/2024 23:51

# Samantha Sparks, Palmer, AK

We need our midwives!

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Samantha Sparks, Palmer, AK 3/1/2024 23:52

# Jessica Zeffery, Wasilla, AK

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Jessica Zeffery, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 0:22

# Kathy Jones, Anchorage, AK

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Kathy Jones, Anchorage, AK 3/2/2024 1:10

# Holly Halonen, Wasilla, MT

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Holly Halonen, Wasilla, MT 3/2/2024 2:02

# Raymond Slaymaker, Anchorage, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

Additionally, I am urging you to *support* <u>HB 175</u>, which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

## SAFER BIRTHS AND HEALTHIER BABIES

Under the training, oversight, and administration of the Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Board, Midwife attended births have produced:

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## MIDWIVES PROVIDE CRITICAL CARE

<u>Eliminating the 5 Medical Professionals</u> from the *oversight, administration, and training* of Alaska's Midwives will lead to worse outcomes for *Alaskan mothers and babies*.

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PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

#### UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Raymond Slaymaker, Anchorage, AK 3/2/2024 4:20

# Amelia Johnson-Cook, Big Lake, AK

I disapprove of EO 130 Please let mothers choose where and who and how they birth. Leave midwifery care on the table as an option.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Amelia Johnson-Cook, Big Lake, AK 3/2/2024 5:34

## Wayne Mcclure, Anchorage, AK

Dear Governor Dunleavy and All Alaskan Legislators: My wife and I have had two kids using using a mid wife and believe they deliver a better practice then most doctors in the health care system.

I urge you to rescind or disapprove EO 130 and protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for themselves and their babies.

## Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Wayne Mcclure, Anchorage, AK 3/2/2024 5:44

## Dawn Cavanaugh, Juneau, AK

We as Alaskans need to have choices. My daughter in law has used a midwife for both her pregnancies. We need to keep this board to maintain the integrity and continue to certify top notch midwives here in Alaska.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Dawn Cavanaugh, Juneau, AK 3/2/2024 5:50

# Tammy Leslie, Palmer, AK

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Tammy Leslie, Palmer, AK 3/2/2024 7:00

## Cameron Peters, Wasilla, AK

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Cameron Peters, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 7:55

## Judith Kurka, Kotzebue, AK

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Judith Kurka, Kotzebue, AK 3/2/2024 7:57

## Charity Morse, Wasilla, AK

Women deserve the right to access to care they want.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Charity Morse, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 8:00

## Aaron Stocks, Soldotna, AK

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Aaron Stocks, Soldotna, AK 3/2/2024 8:07

# Cheryl Clement, Anchorage, AK

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Cheryl Clement, Anchorage, AK 3/2/2024 9:10

# Michelle Turpin, Fairbanks, AK

As an RN I have attended both hospital and home births. Women deserve the right to choose where they want to give birth and to be able to be attended by a midwife.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Michelle Turpin, Fairbanks, AK 3/2/2024 9:19

## Sharon Kaye Fisher, Anchorage, AK

Eight of my grandchildren have been delivered by midwives. Please protect policies that allow mothers the option to deliver their babies with midwives of their choice.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Sharon Kaye Fisher, Anchorage, AK 3/2/2024 9:30

# Michael Shields, Fbks., AK

One may wonder whose ridiculous idea this is! And why do it?

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Submitted via the Alaska Right to Life Committee PO Box 201134 | Anchorage, AK 99520 Info@AlaskaRightToLife.org | (907) 232-2211 I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the</u> <u>best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

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Michael Shields, Fbks., AK 3/2/2024 10:00

# Rebecca Warren, Saint Marys, AK

This should not even be a question....we are a free country therefore we should have the freedom to decide if we want to use a midwife or a medical professional.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Rebecca Warren, Saint Marys, AK 3/2/2024 10:02

# Vanessa Olson, Wasilla, AK

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Vanessa Olson, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 10:43

### Tori Schmidt, Wasilla, AK

I urge you to maintain the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives as a medical provider and mother!

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Tori Schmidt, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 11:06

## Carolina Garman, Wasilla, AK

The government has no right to overstep and tell pregnant mothers how to care for their own bodies. Taking this invaluable option away will lead to more women and children being put in jeapordy. To allow this is against our rights. Infant and maternal mortality rates are much lower with midwives than in hospitals, so to allow this bill would be to show you prefrence to big money over your constituents. Block this bill! It's our RIGHT to choose.

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Carolina Garman, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 11:13

# Kim Frain, Anchorage, AK

We don't need government bureaucrats, that already are failing in the medical field, to have even more say regarding our health, and who individuals choose to help them in healthcare. Please withdraw EO 130 from consideration. Thank you.

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Kim Frain, Anchorage, AK 3/2/2024 11:27

# Bethany Hale, Napakiak, AK

Midwifery is a valuable and necessary asset for the health and wellbeing of our expectant mothers and precious babies. Please do what is needed to protect their ability to safely practice!

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Bethany Hale, Napakiak, AK 3/2/2024 11:48

# Rose Carter, Big Lake, AK

I stand with the Alaskan midwives! Please disapprove EO 130 and protect Alaskan mothers right to choose the best care for themselves and their babies.

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Rose Carter, Big Lake, AK 3/2/2024 13:59

# Kayla Hessler, Tok, AK

Midwives are a crucial part of womens' support network. They provide such a personal touch that allows women to feel safe and cared for and a listening ear for personal preferences and needs during a highly intense and transitional time.

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Kayla Hessler, Tok, AK 3/2/2024 14:07

# Mandy Cantine, Kotzebue, AK

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Mandy Cantine, Kotzebue, AK 3/2/2024 14:09

# Mary Hessler, Bethel, AK

Please don't approve any more requirements that limit midwifery in Alaska. If anything, make an amendment that gives more freedom for midwifery in all areas of Alaska.

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Mary Hessler, Bethel, AK 3/2/2024 14:10

# Amy Pettijohn, Willow, AK

Midwives provide great service and a personal touch that should always be an option to expecting mothers. My mother had 4 children with the help of Midwives and they were all successful and much more comfortable than a hospital birth. The Midwives are doing a great job and should be allowed to continue doing their job. They are efficient and more cost effective than working with doctors.

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Amy Pettijohn, Willow, AK 3/2/2024 14:14

# Carolyn Harrison, Wasilla, AK

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Carolyn Harrison, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 15:05

# Sharon Sheehan, Big Lake, AK

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Sharon Sheehan, Big Lake, AK 3/2/2024 15:17

## Shannon M Johnson, Wasilla, AK

I have had two births with a midwife & they provided the very best care for our family. They were thorough, safe, comforting and knowledgeable. Thankfully not all births need hospital care, if possible it's the safest and most healthy choice for families.

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Shannon M Johnson, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 15:44

# Kristin Ransom, Kotzebue, AK

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Kristin Ransom, Kotzebue, AK 3/2/2024 17:08

# Margaret Broste, Palmer, AK

This board serves a vital function that can not be duplicated. I urge you not to pass this bill.

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Margaret Broste, Palmer, AK 3/2/2024 17:47

# Hailey Thompson, Kodiak, AK

Do not take away our midwife choices! We deserve to birth how we want with who we want and do it SAFELY!!

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Hailey Thompson, Kodiak, AK 3/2/2024 18:22

# Amber Skinner, Nenana, AK

We live in AMERICA and we SHOULD be FREE and have CHOICE. Don't take that away!

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Amber Skinner, Nenana, AK 3/2/2024 18:29

# Megan Ueeck, Wasilla, AK

I've had midwife care through all of my pregnancies and while ultimately having hospital births due to health concerns, I appreciated the care and assistance I received from the midwives that cared for me.

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Megan Ueeck, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 18:40

# Cheryl Couch, Palmer, AK

I have a daughter that I had at a midwifery. It was a great and safe birth. Women need to continue to have this option.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Cheryl Couch, Palmer, AK 3/2/2024 19:24

# Nicole Raabe, Fairbanks, AK

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Nicole Raabe, Fairbanks, AK 3/2/2024 20:14

# Kate Sebring, Anchorage, AK

Being able to have a home birth with a fully licensed midwife team enabled me to powerfully and confidently birth my first two babies and I am a few short months away from birthing my third child. DO NOT DO AWAY WITH THE MIDWIFE BOARD. I haven't met you in person but you did attend my final/your first AMYA Cadet graduation in 2019. I knew you were the Governor we needed as a state and the time is now to protect the midwives who (in turn) protect birthing mothers, their children and their families. Birth accidents and problems are rare in the midwife community but NOT rare in the slightest in the hospital sector. Protect the midwife board-thank you, Governor Dunleavy!

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Kate Sebring, Anchorage, AK 3/2/2024 23:05

# Timothy Carter, Big Lake, AK

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Timothy Carter, Big Lake, AK 3/2/2024 23:06

# Alisha Eaker, Wasilla, AK

God's natural way is the best way. Keep midwives a part of birthing.

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Alisha Eaker, Wasilla, AK 3/2/2024 23:13

# Josh Funk, Kotzebue, AK

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Josh Funk, Kotzebue, AK 3/2/2024 23:36

# Amy Damon, Anchorage, AK

My midwife is the reason I had the birthing experience best suited for the health of me and my baby. No one knows women's bodies better than women and midwives are foundational in providing services and care tailored to women and their babies.

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Amy Damon, Anchorage, AK 3/2/2024 23:56

# Shayla Lee, Kodiak, AK

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Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.* 

PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

Submitted via the Alaska Right to Life Committee PO Box 201134 | Anchorage, AK 99520 Info@AlaskaRightToLife.org | (907) 232-2211

### **UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES**

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Shayla Lee, Kodiak, AK 3/2/2024 23:58

# Edna Johanson, Fairbanks, AK

We NEED Alaskan midwives to assure full choice in the birthing of Alaskan babies!!!!!!!!!

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Edna Johanson, Fairbanks, AK 3/3/2024 0:19

# Regina Wright, Anchorage, AK

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Regina Wright, Anchorage, AK 3/3/2024 0:19

# Joshua Mcgraw, Brunswick, AK

Freedom to choose your own medical solutions and resolutions is a part of the fabric of who America is.

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Joshua Mcgraw, Brunswick, AK 3/3/2024 2:22

# Christopher Pettway, Anchorage, AK

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Christopher Pettway, Anchorage, AK 3/3/2024 2:28

# Robin Marsh, Anchorage, AK

My last two babies (#7 and #8) were delivered with a message wife in a birthing center. Extremely satisfied! Please support them and do not change current regulations without considering the repercussions

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Robin Marsh, Anchorage, AK 3/3/2024 5:58

# Sarah Dunn, Wasilla, AK

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Sarah Dunn, Wasilla, AK 3/3/2024 8:30

# Kris Spencr, Palmer, AK

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Kris Spencr, Palmer, AK 3/3/2024 9:26

# Corrinne Webb, Anchorage, AK

Pregnancy and birth are normal and should not be treated like illnesses. Midwives are a safe option for low risk mothers to deliver their babies.

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Corrinne Webb, Anchorage, AK 3/3/2024 10:30

# Adina Kamilos, Anchorage, AK

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Adina Kamilos, Anchorage, AK 3/3/2024 11:37

# Daniel Rekoe, Palmer, AK

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Daniel Rekoe, Palmer, AK 3/3/2024 11:45

# Chelsea Lauffman, Soldotna, AK

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Chelsea Lauffman, Soldotna, AK 3/3/2024 13:58

# Renee Truitt, Kodiak, AK

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Renee Truitt, Kodiak, AK 3/3/2024 14:01

# Erika Watkins, Anchorage, AK

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Erika Watkins, Anchorage, AK 3/3/2024 14:37

# Darcy Logan, Palmer, AK

It is essential for the Alaskan women to have birthing options and to protect those rights. I disapprove of EO 130 as it does not ensure the best outcomes for women who choose Midwife services. Please think beyond legislation. We are talking about babies and mothers and the best outcome.

Sincerely, Darcy Logan

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Darcy Logan, Palmer, AK 3/3/2024 14:51

# Kimberly Durst, Palmer, AK

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Kimberly Durst, Palmer, AK 3/3/2024 14:55

# Caroline Hessler, Bethel, AK

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Caroline Hessler, Bethel, AK 3/3/2024 16:16

# Robert Taylor, Wasilla, AK

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Robert Taylor, Wasilla, AK 3/3/2024 17:05

# Sara Fish, Chiniak, AK

Please maintain the board of direct entry midwives and keep this option available for families to have as a safe and comfortable way to bring our babies into this world.

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**Sara Fish, Chiniak, AK** 3/3/2024 18:46

# Caleb Edmonson, Eagle River, AK

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Caleb Edmonson, Eagle River, AK 3/3/2024 19:06

# Shawna Dziedziak, Wasilla, AK

This will affect so many women. This in villages with only midwives available. Those who choose midwives at a midwifery. Even those who choose a hospital delivery because many providers are midwives. This would be devastating for child bearing and women's health in Alaska.

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Shawna Dziedziak, Wasilla, AK 3/3/2024 19:51

# Kristi Losby, Anchorage, AK

I had 3 of my 4 babies at home with midwives. I believe every woman should have the choice to birth in whatever what she chooses. Midwives give women the ability to make choices to fit their needs and this freedom should not be put into jeopardy. Support our midwives!

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Kristi Losby, Anchorage, AK 3/3/2024 22:29

# Paula Chamberlin-West, Chiniak, AK

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Paula Chamberlin-West, Chiniak, AK 3/4/2024 1:03

# Laura Zavas, Willow, AK

My family has used direct midwives since the 80's, and there have been lots of kids born happy and healthy ??

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Laura Zavas, Willow, AK 3/4/2024 4:01

# Leah Grisham, Wasilla, AK

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Leah Grisham, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 6:39

# Kathleen Sanderson, Palmer, AK

Midwive supply a very needed service to our community, the care they provide for women is exceptional. i attended classes that were givin when my daughters. The midwives were so informitive about how our bodies were changing and what to expect at each stage of pregnanc;y. I was learning about stuff i had with my pregnancies 20 years before. the midwive are very caring and compassionate. WHY would you want to repeal them. I AM FOR MIDWIVES TO CONTINUE TO DO THE GREAT WORK THEY DO, THEY ARE AN ASSET TO ALASKA

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Kathleen Sanderson, Palmer, AK 3/4/2024 8:12

# Tessa Brown, Kodiak, AK

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Tessa Brown, Kodiak, AK 3/4/2024 8:15

# Adaeze Woko, Anchorage, AK

I support the Alaska midwives board

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Adaeze Woko, Anchorage, AK 3/4/2024 9:02

# Ruth Sanford, Palmer, AK

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Ruth Sanford, Palmer, AK 3/4/2024 9:07

# Annika Carson, Wasilla, AK

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I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

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Annika Carson, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 9:36

# Kong Ly, Wasilla, AK

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Kong Ly, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 10:18

# Adeline Bekkala, Houston, AK

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Adeline Bekkala, Houston, AK 3/4/2024 11:18

# Kellie Hotchkiss, Wasilla, AK

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Kellie Hotchkiss, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 12:40

# Melissa Hall, Palmer, AK

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Melissa Hall, Palmer, AK 3/4/2024 12:41

# Debra Johnson, Petersburg, AK

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Debra Johnson, Petersburg, AK 3/4/2024 12:47

## Pamela Samash, Nenana, AK

We keep hearing about how our state is losing population, especially young families here in the interior. By shutting down the Midwife Board, you are destroying the protection midwives need and will cause us to lose this childbirth option. Taking away choices and options will discourage women to want to start their families here. By this action, Gov Dunleavy is shooting himself in the foot. We need young families to live in Alaska and stay here. Please do not proceed with shutting down the Midwife Board and allow mothers to continue to have whatever birthing option that they are comfortable with.

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Pamela Samash, Nenana, AK 3/4/2024 12:55

# Samantha Denbleyker, Wasilla, AK

Midwives are amazing. They also help keep costs down for families vs a hospital birth. Alaska has been a leader in midwifery care and to lose it would be a shame.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Samantha Denbleyker, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 12:58

## Theresa Imlach, Wasilla, AK

I urge you to disapprove EO 130 and protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for themselves and their babies.

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Theresa Imlach, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 14:14

# Joshua Standifird, Wasilla, AK

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Joshua Standifird, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 14:22

## Pam Weaver, Wasilla, AK

I served on the CDM Board for two terms from its inception and held the third license issued by the board. I also served on the national board, the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) for eight years. I co-authored the Practical Skills Guide for Midwives, now in the 5th Ed., a standard recommended by NARM for testing prep and required by multiple midwifery schools. The board is designed to watch over the affairs of the profession and to police its own ranks. It keeps the midwifery profession in Alaska in step with national standards, education and trends. This is laborious and costly, resulting in exorbitant licensure fees. But those fees support the workings of the board as well as any investigation that arises from questionable practice, keeping the board self-supporting, not burdening the state fiscally. It is imperative that this board stay in place as a matter of assuring best practice and public safety and that it not simply come under the auspice of state bureaucracy. Thank you

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Pam Weaver, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 16:15

# Stanzie Yaskell, Anchorage, AK

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Stanzie Yaskell, Anchorage, AK 3/4/2024 16:56

# Nathan Yaskell, Anchorage, AK

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Nathan Yaskell, Anchorage, AK 3/4/2024 17:06

# Cathy Gedicks, Wasilla, AK

Midwives are necessary for all of AK! The Board insures quality training & best practices for all receiving care.

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#### UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Cathy Gedicks, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 17:07

# Jennifer Wilde, Anchorage, AK

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Jennifer Wilde, Anchorage, AK 3/4/2024 17:08

# Rebecca Gall, Palmer, AK

All 4 of my boys were delivered by midwives in Alaska. The midwives here are well educated and an important part of birthing here in this state.

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Rebecca Gall, Palmer, AK 3/4/2024 17:09

## Yukon Tanner, Talkeetna, AK

Mike I strongly encourage you NOT to do away with this board ..... when I worked for Governor Hickel we established this much needed board for all the right reasons..... don't allow special interests to end this valuable board. ??if you want would like the history give me a call 907 3551905 thank you

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Yukon Tanner, Talkeetna, AK 3/4/2024 17:23

## Risa Pearcy, Wasilla, AK

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Risa Pearcy, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 17:34

## Skye Mcdonald, Wasilla, AK

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Skye Mcdonald, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 17:36

## Franka Stewart, Wasilla, AK

I have had multiple very positive birth with midwives in Alaska. I would ALWAYS choose them over having to go to a hospital. Please don't take this choice away from Alaskan Mothers and families.

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Franka Stewart, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 17:37

## Casee Chevalier, Wasilla, AK

I am writing you with a heavy heart concerning Executive Order 130. I ask that you please vote no on this order. The Board of Midwives must NOT be dissolved. There are only 33 licensed midwives in the state of Alaska and the board is made up of volunteers of their peers.

There is zero reason to dissolve this board but many many negative consequences that would arise.

I have personally benefited greatly from having the ability to choose a midwife and not deliver in the hospital. My midwife changed my birthing experience and I felt so supported, safe, and empowered. Every women should have the choice that I did.

If this board gets dissolved, insurance companies may refuse midwives to bill them according to the current wording in their standards. This would mean families would have to come out of pocket in order to have the birthing experience that they wish. This is NOT acceptable. Nobody should be forced to deliver in the hospital just because they can't afford to have the healthcare professional that makes them the most comfortable.

There has also been a huge shortage in state employees so adding to their plate would not be wise.

It is also more dangerous to have random state employees oversee midwives when they have no knowledge on their abilities or rights. You wouldn't get rid of the medical board, so why on earth would our government try and get rid of the board of midwives.

I could go on but the gist is please please do not allow this bill to be passed. I ask that you not only vote no but you help spread the word for others to vote no as well.

They also have House Bill, HB 175, which is a bill the Board of Midwives have been working on for the past several years. This would align our current regulations with our statutes, and would align Alaska midwives with the National standards. This HB would meet the requirements of our last legislative audit.

We 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.

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Casee Chevalier, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 17:40

## Shane Stewart, Wasilla, AK

Three of my children were born at home with a midwife and a fourth on track to as well. As long as midwives are successful and effectively self policing they should be left structured the way they have been. If midwives weren't interested in doing things safely and professionally they wouldn't have a board. If this board is eliminated I view this as the first step to removing their autonomy. This will open the door for more scrutiny by the larger "health care" system and its desired overreach.

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Shane Stewart, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 17:48

## Diane Mongeau, Palmer, AK

Governor Wally Hickel saw the importance of this board when he put it into place during his term. He was a very smart man.

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Diane Mongeau, Palmer, AK 3/4/2024 17:51

## Krista Duque, Anchorage, AK

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Krista Duque, Anchorage, AK 3/4/2024 17:53

## Dominique Park, Wasilla, AK

If women don't have the right to choose the best path forward they may choose to not get any medical attention at all (have a home birth with no midwife present since insurance won't cover it). Just like the women who are choosing abortions, rather than coat hangars; women giving birth should be allowed to choose what that looks like for themselves without government overreach.

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Dominique Park, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 18:03

# Mariya Manalli, Wasilla, AK

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Mariya Manalli, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 18:32

## Jessica Western, Anchorage, AK

I had a wonderful healthy pregnancy with the care of midwives. They provided me with evidenced based information through my prenatal care. They consulted me when the baby needed increased medical care. They supported me through the labor and delivery of my baby. They were on call no matter the time, day or night. They balanced my experience with the right amount of medical attention and personal care.

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- 17% fewer Cesarean sections.
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## MIDWIVES PROVIDE CRITICAL CARE

<u>Eliminating the 5 Medical Professionals</u> from the *oversight, administration, and training* of Alaska's Midwives will lead to worse outcomes for *Alaskan mothers and babies*.

Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care* <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.

### PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

#### UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Jessica Western, Anchorage, AK 3/4/2024 18:36

## Tiana Faumui, Wasilla, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Tiana Faumui, Wasilla, AK 3/4/2024 18:42

## Ceri Denner, Anchorage, AK

Please keep the board of midwives.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Ceri Denner, Anchorage, AK 3/4/2024 18:47

## Christine Lea, Anchorage, AK

I support Alaska Midwives in their efforts to deliver babies safely and give Moms the best option for low cost births.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Christine Lea, Anchorage, AK 3/4/2024 18:51

## Connie Peter, Bethel, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Connie Peter, Bethel, AK 3/4/2024 18:56

# Mark Clemetson, Anchorage, WA

God Bless all MidWives

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Mark Clemetson, Anchorage, WA 3/5/2024 6:32

## Aleah Stein, Sutton, AK

Im a mother of 7, 5 of which I was able to choose a midwife for their births. The freedom and ability to birth safely with a skilled midwife's who's only job is birth, should always be the choice of the pregnant women. Don't let this be taken away!

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Aleah Stein, Sutton, AK 3/5/2024 7:39

# Penny Puhak, Kodial, AK

Keep the group as it is!

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Penny Puhak, Kodial, AK 3/5/2024 8:20

# Mary Daniels, Unalakleet, AK

Midwives are an essential part of care for child birth. Please reconsider your decision.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Mary Daniels, Unalakleet, AK 3/5/2024 10:26

# Renee Morris, Palmer, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Renee Morris, Palmer, AK 3/5/2024 10:37

# **Edward Hebert, Wasilla, AK**

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Edward Hebert, Wasilla, AK 3/5/2024 10:40

## Miranda Grace, Nenana, AK

I support maintaining the Board of Dierect Entry Midwives. Trained medical professionals that have experience in this field of medicine are much better equipped to make decisions for the welfare of both mothers and babies. I don't see how the state government can make these decisions when they have had no training or knowledge on the subject.

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Miranda Grace, Nenana, AK 3/5/2024 10:54

# Suzy Crosby, Wasilla, AK

Please rescind EO 130 for the good of Alaskan mothers and babies.

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Suzy Crosby, Wasilla, AK 3/5/2024 11:35

## Rebecca Tozier, North Pole, AK

Protection of the right for mother's to chose where and how they give birth to their babies is critical. It should be a right and unfortunately many women don't feel like they have a choice and aren't well informed. Midwives help with that and it is indisputable that they lower the rate of complications during birth. Midwives are experts in normal, physiological birth. Doctors are experts in medical birth. They are not the same.

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Rebecca Tozier, North Pole, AK 3/5/2024 12:53

# Wendy Anzilotti, Wasilla, AK

Midwives are an indispensable part of Alaska's healthcare for expectant mothers and their infants. They offer personal, natural, and professional care to families without health insurance as well as to women who wish to bypass restrictive and intrusive hospital protocols. I personally have had midwives deliver three of my seven children and in each case my recovery was faster and the postnatal follow-up care was comprehensive.

Midwives give amazing follow-up care for infants as well, often referring for lactation specialists or any other issue that needs to be addressed. Their professional ethics and protocols keep women and their preborn children's safety as their first concern.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

Additionally, I am urging you to *support* <u>HB 175</u>, which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

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Wendy Anzilotti, Wasilla, AK 3/5/2024 12:55

# Megan Fowler, Wasilla, AK

Alaska midwives are an integral part in helping women achieve healthy and safe pregnancies and deliveries. Let's protect this and keep Alaska momma's healthier and safer!

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Megan Fowler, Wasilla, AK 3/5/2024 14:00

# Dorothy Deblauw, Healy, AK

Alaska Midwives are an important resource for our state. Many women choose midwives for their pregnancies and delivery of babies.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Dorothy Deblauw, Healy, AK 3/5/2024 14:10

## Lauren Lueth, Wasilla, AK

My midwives are amazing and facilitated a healthy, natural, drug and intervention free birth. I want to birth any future children the same way.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Lauren Lueth, Wasilla, AK 3/5/2024 14:30

## Loretta Helminen, Wasilla, AK

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Loretta Helminen, Wasilla, AK 3/5/2024 14:49

# Nicole Van Vleck, Anchorage, AK

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Nicole Van Vleck, Anchorage, AK 3/5/2024 14:51

# Cindilee Dupuis, Big Lake, AK

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Cindilee Dupuis, Big Lake, AK 3/5/2024 16:08

# Francis Cruise, Anchorage, AK

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Francis Cruise, Anchorage, AK 3/5/2024 16:19

# Ardena Stringer Owens, Palmer, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Ardena Stringer Owens, Palmer, AK 3/5/2024 16:34

# Lydia Wood, Palmer, AK

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Lydia Wood, Palmer, AK 3/5/2024 16:49

## Kristina Lucia, Sutton, AK

It is absolutely essential that like-minded professionals, midwives, and parents support direct-entry midwifery and birthing centers, in the capable, professional manner that has been displayed by the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives. Eliminating this Board would do a grave dissservice to our Alaskan community.

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Kristina Lucia, Sutton, AK 3/5/2024 16:52

## Aubrey Hofgren, Jamestown, AK

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Aubrey Hofgren, Jamestown, AK 3/5/2024 17:30

# Lita Lubitshwhite, Anchorage, AK

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Submitted via the Alaska Right to Life Committee PO Box 201134 | Anchorage, AK 99520 Info@AlaskaRightToLife.org | (907) 232-2211

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Lita Lubitshwhite, Anchorage, AK 3/5/2024 17:32

## Ariane Aho, Wasilla, AK

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Ariane Aho, Wasilla, AK 3/5/2024 18:02

## Lisa Henderson, Soldotna, AK

Please, please don't take away this valuable resource! What can be the motivation for this. Free choice and liberty to choose!

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Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

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Lisa Henderson, Soldotna, AK 3/5/2024 18:20

## Catherine Higginbotham, Eagle River, AK

Midwives are the experts, not anyone so far removed from what they do. Stop trying to cut SAFETY corners for "efficiency" gains. We all know this is not about efficiency. The govt's hands have no place in birth.

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Catherine Higginbotham, Eagle River, AK 3/5/2024 18:51

# Tabitha Nelson, Petersburg, AK

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Tabitha Nelson, Petersburg, AK 3/5/2024 19:11

# Hannah Carter, Chugiak, AK

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Hannah Carter, Chugiak, AK 3/5/2024 19:14

## Althea Hafford, Fairbanks, AK

Midwives save lives. Midwives make better experiences for mothers and are even better at pelvic exams. This is a necessary service that deserves the dignity it's acquired, and needs a board.

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Althea Hafford, Fairbanks, AK 3/5/2024 19:21

## Melanie Weed, Juneau, AK

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Melanie Weed, Juneau, AK 3/5/2024 19:30

# Kirsten Dupree, Petersburg, AK

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Kirsten Dupree, Petersburg, AK 3/5/2024 19:42

## Belinda Lovejoy, Palmer, AK

Please Maintain the Board of Certified Direct-Entry. The very professional Alaskan midwives have delivered five of my precious children. I have found their care and knowledge to be superb. The numbers speak for their excellent work. Women need the midwives under the board of certified direct entry.

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Belinda Lovejoy, Palmer, AK 3/5/2024 19:50

## **Courtney Procter, Soldotna, AK**

Midwives are in essential part of safe healthcare for Alaska as women and babies. Being able to choose midwives for maternal care is a human right.

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Courtney Procter, Soldotna, AK 3/5/2024 19:51

## Silas Firth, Homer, AK

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Silas Firth, Homer, AK 3/5/2024 20:34

## Ulita Kusnetsov, Wasilla, AK

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Ulita Kusnetsov, Wasilla, AK 3/5/2024 20:59

# Berrie Colyar, Anchorage, AK

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Berrie Colyar, Anchorage, AK 3/5/2024 21:21

## Renee Millner, Palmer, AK

With my first pregnancy I started seeing an OB, because I thought midwives were just for hippies. Mid-way through my pregnancy I felt completely overwhelmed and steamrolled, my care routine was being assigned not discussed. Thankfully, I learned of my options and transferred care to a wonderful midwifery clinic and was talked to about options for my care and I was heard! It was a completely different experience. With my second baby, I returned to my midwives and opted for a birth center birth. I'm now pregnant with my third and have returned to midwifery care. The thought of being forced to go to an OB gives me so much anxiety.

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Renee Millner, Palmer, AK 3/5/2024 21:52

## Vicki Hoyman, Palmer, AK

5 of my precious grand kids were brought into this world with the wonderful help of a qualified midwife! Please pay attention to this critical need!

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<u>Eliminating the 5 Medical Professionals</u> from the *oversight, administration, and training* of Alaska's Midwives will lead to worse outcomes for *Alaskan mothers and babies*.

Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care* <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.

#### PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the</u> <u>best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Vicki Hoyman, Palmer, AK 3/5/2024 22:15

## Robin Platt, Anchorage, AK

Midwives offer options to delivering babies. I urge you to support keeping midwives and do not put heavy restrictions on that value asset.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Robin Platt, Anchorage, AK 3/6/2024 0:00

# Mary Dean Broussard, Anchorage, AK

Midwives are essential in Alaska!

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Mary Dean Broussard, Anchorage, AK 3/6/2024 0:22

# Rachelle Pessetto, Anchorage, AK

All 3 of my children have been delivered by midwives and it is absolutely the best decision I have ever made. I have complete confidence in midwives and their knowledge to care for and deliver babies. Mothers deserve the right to choose who is on their team. Please protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care for themselves and their babies!

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Rachelle Pessetto, Anchorage, AK 3/6/2024 0:47

# Kawehelani Auld, Wasilla, AK

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Kawehelani Auld, Wasilla, AK 3/6/2024 0:49

# Brittany Stushek, Wasilla, AK

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Brittany Stushek, Wasilla, AK 3/6/2024 2:51

# Jenny Myhand, Palmer, AK

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Jenny Myhand, Palmer, AK 3/6/2024 4:07

# Debra Sollars, Petersburg, AK

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Debra Sollars, Petersburg, AK 3/6/2024 5:00

# Joshua Roach, Palmer, AK

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Joshua Roach, Palmer, AK 3/6/2024 5:56

# Roseanna Renner, Wasilla, AK

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Roseanna Renner, Wasilla, AK 3/6/2024 7:35

# Holly Kennedy, Palmer, AK

Midwives are a important part of our state and I have had home births with amazing midwives that are worth their weight in gold!!!!

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Holly Kennedy, Palmer, AK 3/6/2024 8:50

# Carol Drebert, Chugiak, AK

All my 21 grandchildren were born with midwives in attendance. Each one was born safely and in full health. Each mother was cared for to the fullest by the skills and training of the midwives. We all, grandparents and parents had full trust and confidence in the midwives AND their Alaska appointed Board of Certified Direct Entry Midwives. Please don't eliminate this board!

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Carol Drebert, Chugiak, AK 3/6/2024 8:55

# Jody Adriaenssens, Chugiak, AK

Both my babies were born at home and my Aunt, Pam Weaver was one of the first midwives in Alaska. Birth choice and midwifery is very dear to my heart.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Jody Adriaenssens, Chugiak, AK 3/6/2024 8:58

# Sarah Firth, Anchor Point, AK

Please consider keeping the board. My sisters all use midwives' services and have had multiple safe and cost-effective births. We'd like to know the midwifery team is having a voice in the birth care decisions made in Alaska!

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Sarah Firth, Anchor Point, AK 3/6/2024 9:04

# Amber Mock, Eagle River, AK

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- Lower Maternal Mortality (0 recorded maternal deaths in Midwife attended births) compared to 6-20 under Doctor directed and hospital births.
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- Improved breastfeeding experiences and outcomes.

# MIDWIVES PROVIDE CRITICAL CARE

<u>Eliminating the 5 Medical Professionals</u> from the *oversight, administration, and training* of Alaska's Midwives will lead to worse outcomes for *Alaskan mothers and babies*.

Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.* 

PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

## UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Amber Mock, Eagle River, AK 3/6/2024 9:09

# Ellen Grainger, Delta Junction, AK

They helped us greatly!

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Ellen Grainger, Delta Junction, AK 3/6/2024 9:14

# Jacob Renner, Wasilla, AK

We have done both. Midwife was the better experience for mother and baby!

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Jacob Renner, Wasilla, AK 3/6/2024 10:02

# Susan Tayman, Anchorage, AK

Midwives offer a valuable service to families and our whole state!

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Susan Tayman, Anchorage, AK 3/6/2024 11:27

# **Kaydee Scarola, Sutton, AK**

I had a horrible experience with my first child's birth at Providence Hospital in Anchorage, so for my next two births, I employed a midwife. The difference to my well-being was mind blowing, and I urge you to protect my right to have midwife assisted births, as in my case, it was critical for not just mental or emotional health, but the actual physical health of my babies and myself. Thank you!

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Kaydee Scarola, Sutton, AK 3/6/2024 11:35

# Roberta Highstone, Anchorage, AK

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Roberta Highstone, Anchorage, AK 3/6/2024 11:38

# Jennifer Robin Allen, Sutton, Ak, AK

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Jennifer Robin Allen, Sutton, Ak, AK 3/6/2024 12:09

# Mary Goggia, Kenai, AK

Midwives play a vital part in safety birthing children. We need midwives to be able to continue to offer their services.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Mary Goggia, Kenai, AK 3/6/2024 13:24

# Sonya Vaughn, Chugiak, AK

Midwives are a critical part of healthy pregnancies and deliveries. Women need the freedom to choose the medical professionals who align with their health care philosophy and with whom they can feel most comfortable.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Sonya Vaughn, Chugiak, AK 3/6/2024 14:29

# Julia Fleshman, Palmer, AK

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Julia Fleshman, Palmer, AK 3/6/2024 15:10

# Rebecca Chamberlain, Anchoragr, AK

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Rebecca Chamberlain, Anchoragr, AK 3/6/2024 15:12

# Sharon Witham, Anchorage, AK

Midwives are a vital part of the medical community. They also allow women another CHOICE of pregnancy care.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Sharon Witham, Anchorage, AK 3/6/2024 15:20

# Daphnie Haller, Kenai, AK

Midwives are SO essential to the state of Alaska!

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Daphnie Haller, Kenai, AK 3/6/2024 16:14

# Barbara Fiscus, Juneau, AK

Please protect midwifery as an option for parents in Alaska. Pregnancy is not a disease that requires hospital intervention. Midwifery provides a safe, positive environment for women throughout pregnancy and delivery.

# Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Barbara Fiscus, Juneau, AK 3/6/2024 16:43

# Joshua Kugler, Fairbanks, AK

As a father who has personally attended several midwife-assisted births (my own children) I can speak for the value of the midwife and the supervisory board. I urge you to rescind or disapprove EO 130.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

Additionally, I am urging you to *support* <u>HB 175</u>, which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

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## **UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES**

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Joshua Kugler, Fairbanks, AK 3/6/2024 17:12

# Amanda Adams, Palmer, AK

My midwife ensured I had care when I had no insurance and was unable to afford a Dr for my pregnancy. She was a total and complete lifesaver for my son and I. For my second pregnancy I was able to get insurance and opted to go back to my midwife because she provided better care than the Drs I was seeing. This is a critical need for our state and whole heartedly support them!

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Amanda Adams, Palmer, AK 3/6/2024 17:30

# Linda Ostic, Fairbanks, AK

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Linda Ostic, Fairbanks, AK 3/6/2024 17:48

# Teresa Hanson, Fairbanks, AK

I had all 4 of my babies through the midwives, one of which helped create this board and sat on it for many years. She thought it was important for our state. I concur.

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Teresa Hanson, Fairbanks, AK 3/6/2024 17:51

# Pat Martin, Wasilla, AK

After reading the testimony of hundreds of Alaskans, I'm convinced beyond my own experience that maintaining and even elevating the services Midwives provide Alaskan mothers and babies is the right thing to do.

Please disapprove EO 130 and support, vote for, and sign HB 175 into law so that the practice of Midwifery will be protected and upgraded to national standards that promise and require better, safer care for moms and babies.

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Pat Martin, Wasilla, AK 3/6/2024 18:32

# Pamela Lott, Homer, AK

KEEP THE MIDWIVES!! The are needed!

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Pamela Lott, Homer, AK 3/6/2024 19:22

# **Emily Taff, Port Alsworth, AK**

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Emily Taff, Port Alsworth, AK 3/6/2024 20:05

# Lydia C, Eagle River, AK

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**Lydia C, Eagle River, AK** 3/6/2024 20:50

# Kay Olmeim, Wasilla, AK

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Kay Olmeim, Wasilla, AK 3/6/2024 21:07

# Julie Lageson, Fairbanks, AK

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Julie Lageson, Fairbanks, AK 3/6/2024 21:13

# Hannah Mcclure, Anchorage, AK

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Hannah Mcclure, Anchorage, AK 3/6/2024 21:24

## Julia Helms, Wasilla, AK

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Julia Helms, Wasilla, AK 3/6/2024 21:25

# Alison Klump, Anchorage, AK

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Alison Klump, Anchorage, AK 3/6/2024 22:18

## Lugay Leah, Anchorage, AK

I have four children, two which I had through midwifery. The care I received while being at the midwifery was like no other. I absolutely loved my midwife's I had. I hope our Governor will reconsider his choice to try to remove such a great option for women.

## Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:*

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Lugay Leah, Anchorage, AK 3/6/2024 22:53

## Tadd Bishoo, Fairbanks, AK

Can't believe this is even being considered. If there are cuts to be made I bet there are a lot of state government programs that can be cut. Environmental is one of them.

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Tadd Bishoo, Fairbanks, AK 3/7/2024 4:28

## Leticia Hernandez, Chugiak, AK

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Leticia Hernandez, Chugiak, AK 3/7/2024 6:16

# Jessica Kincaid, Anchorage, AK

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Jessica Kincaid, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 6:58

# Danna Sapp, North Pole, AK

I've had four babies with midwives and they are amazing.

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Danna Sapp, North Pole, AK 3/7/2024 7:31

# Ashley Hearn, Anchorage, AK

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Ashley Hearn, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 8:25

## Christina Ramos, Palmer, AK

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Christina Ramos, Palmer, AK 3/7/2024 8:32

## **Brian Wilbert, Sutton, AK**

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Brian Wilbert, Sutton, AK 3/7/2024 8:33

### Hannah Johnson, Palmer, AK

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Hannah Johnson, Palmer, AK 3/7/2024 8:33

## Amber Jackson, Wasilla, AK

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Amber Jackson, Wasilla, AK 3/7/2024 8:35

# Alicia Wiley, Anchorage, AK

As a mother, I support our midwives!!

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Alicia Wiley, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 8:36

## Patrick Hadley, Anchorage, AK

Please rescind the EO 130 before it is to late.

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Patrick Hadley, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 8:43

## Karen Bracken, Wasilla, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Karen Bracken, Wasilla, AK 3/7/2024 8:47

### Adrian Combe, Fairbanks, AK

Midwives' autonomy should be protected.

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Adrian Combe, Fairbanks, AK 3/7/2024 8:52

# Lynne Alton, Anchorage, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Lynne Alton, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 8:55

# Angele Rochin, Anchorage, AK

Midwives know their profession the best and have shown they regulate it well and keep to a high standard. There is no need for change.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Angele Rochin, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 8:56

# Velton Johnston, Anchorage, AK

Midwifery is critical to Alaskan women. Through out world history they have been the people who have stood in the gap for women. Leave them alone!

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

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Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

## SAFER BIRTHS AND HEALTHIER BABIES

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Velton Johnston, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 8:57

# Patty Imus, Fairbanks, AK

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Patty Imus, Fairbanks, AK 3/7/2024 9:16

# **Desiree Terry, Palmer, AK**

Please do not limit Alaskan Women's right to choose their healthcare for their pregnancy and delivery of their babies.

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Desiree Terry, Palmer, AK 3/7/2024 9:24

# Jacque Childs, North Pole, AK

We need more not less.

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Jacque Childs, North Pole, AK 3/7/2024 9:52

# Finley Martin, Wasilla, AK

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Finley Martin, Wasilla, AK 3/7/2024 10:00

# Katie Burnett, Kodiak, AK

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Katie Burnett, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 10:08

# Kalie Rubalcava, Homer, AK

I have had experiences in birth with both doctors and midwives. My midwife took exceptional care of me during my pregnancies and provided me with top notch education at every step of the way. I delivered 2 healthy babies with her in a very safe and cared for environment where I was empowered in my decisions. It would be an injustice to all women of Alaska to deny them the opportunity to choose this type of exceptional care.

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Kalie Rubalcava, Homer, AK 3/7/2024 10:12

# **Timothy Comer, Craig, AK**

Dear Governor

I am writing from the heart to continue the mid wives program under the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives and not under commerce directives. This is more important than you realize.

# Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Timothy Comer, Craig, AK 3/7/2024 10:16

# Celeste Beck-Goodell, Kodiak, AK

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Celeste Beck-Goodell, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 10:18

# Autumn Powell, Kodiak, AK

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Autumn Powell, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 10:20

# Christina Biegel, Anchorage, AK

Please, Governor Dunleavy, consider the negative effects this will have on the family! A mother chooses to partner with a midwife for very significant reasons. I am concerned that this will only prevent us from choosing the care we want and need, especially during a time when mothers may feel most vulnerable. Midwives are caregivers for both the mother and her child, in significant ways that a doctor is unable. Please, protect Alaskan mother's and rescind this change.

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Christina Biegel, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 10:23

# Halley Cole, Kodiak, AK

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Halley Cole, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 10:26

# Katie Kesling, Kodiak, AK

this is absurd, why are men making choices about women's bodies, do better alaska

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Katie Kesling, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 10:28

# Judi Vanzwaluwenburg, Kodiak, AK

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Judi Vanzwaluwenburg, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 10:39

# Stephanie Mason, Kodiak, AK

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Stephanie Mason, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 10:45

# Yajaira Monge, Kodiak, AK

I believe Mother's should be able to choose where and who they see when giving birth. It is such an important and crucial time in a women's life and we should be able to choose the manner that best fits our needs when it comes to birth.

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Yajaira Monge, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 10:46

# George Garcia, Kodiak, AK

Dunleavy should be stripped of his power and should have no say in what's best for birth and birthing practices

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George Garcia, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 10:52

# Colleen Britt, Anchorage, AK

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Colleen Britt, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 10:59

# Scott Pessetto, Anchorage, AK

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Scott Pessetto, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 11:00

# Bernice Troglio, Anchorage, AK

Why must you minimize the miracle Jesus has created: the birth of a child by this decision, that makes no sense at all... Please reconsider this horrific decision for the protection of all babies, which is our first calling as Christians... Thank you praying for you, governor for decisions, your face with every day that they align with the word of God because that's the only way the state will prosper.

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Bernice Troglio, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 11:02

## Danielle Butts, Kodiak, AK

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Danielle Butts, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 11:04

# Heather West, Kodiak, AK

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Heather West, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 11:09

## Naomi Hall, Kodiak, AK

I've had the privilege of working with a midwife during all three of my pregnancies. The care one on one during each pregnancies was amazing. When I was worried I was miscarrying early during my second pregnancy the first person I called was my midwife, I saw a doctor and got an ultrasound that confirmed everything was okay, but it was so nice to have someone to reach out to when I had any questions or concerns who was right there for me. The health of my baby and myself were always the first things on their mind, but that deeper relationship that is formed during your appointments is so valuable for birth. Additionally, in my experiences the support you and your baby receive postpartum is so important and midwives go the extra step to make sure both mom and baby are thriving.

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Naomi Hall, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 11:13

# Dehrich Chya, Kodiak, AK

Forcing births into hospitals will be detrimental to families who do not have or cannot afford healthcare. There needs to be options available.

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Dehrich Chya, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 11:13

# Zoya Herrnsteen, Kodiak, AK

I writ in support of Alaska midwives and want to preserve the right to have a home birth or birth center birth under the Care of a midwife. research shows that births under the carr of a midwife have improved outcomes.

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Zoya Herrnsteen, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 11:16

## Ruth Winkelman, Palmer, AK

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Ruth Winkelman, Palmer, AK 3/7/2024 11:23

## Delana Green, Soldotna, AK

I have had two midwives for two babies after my first was born in the hospital. I had a bit of a traumatic birth with my first and the next two were such a massive difference. I felt supported, seen, heard, appreciated and valued.

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Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives is *a critical part of the care <u>Alaska's</u> <u>Midwives</u> provide Alaskan mothers every day.* 

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I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the best care</u> for <u>themselves</u> and <u>their babies</u>.

## UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Delana Green, Soldotna, AK 3/7/2024 11:39

# Barbara Reagle, Anchorage, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Barbara Reagle, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 11:51

# Juliana Viens, Anchorage, AK

I gave birth with a midwife last fall and I would NEVER do it any other way!!!

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Juliana Viens, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 11:52

## Rebekah Gauna, Kodiak, AK

I've had 2 wonderful birth experiences with midwives and 1 not so great hospital birth. The right to give birth with a midwife should be available to Alaskan women.

Governor *Dunleavy* and All *Alaskan Legislators:* 

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Rebekah Gauna, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 12:12

## Katherine Gronn, Kodiak, AK

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Katherine Gronn, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 12:36

# Donna And Johnnie Davis, Palmer, AK

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Donna And Johnnie Davis, Palmer, AK 3/7/2024 12:50

# Nique De La Fuente, Kodiak, AK

I support the right to reproductive rights! Please help us save midwifery practices in Alaska!!

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Nique De La Fuente, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 13:15

# Donald Lederhos, Anchorage, AK

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Donald Lederhos, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 13:30

# Morgan Laffert, Homer, AK

Midwives are an essential part of our community. Leave them alone!

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Morgan Laffert, Homer, AK 3/7/2024 13:47

# Shelly Ryan, Wasilla, AK

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Shelly Ryan, Wasilla, AK 3/7/2024 14:25

## Elizabeth Ellis, Kodiak, AK

Every woman deserves the right to choose, when, and how, and with whom to give birth.

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Elizabeth Ellis, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 14:27

## Donna Smith, Big Lake, AK

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Donna Smith, Big Lake, AK 3/7/2024 14:43

# Jannis Deland, Anchorage, AK

Don't mess with the structure which has been a trusted source for many of my friends. Midwives play an important role and should remain a good option regulated by medical professionals and not government bureaucrats.

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Jannis Deland, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 14:50

## Carolina Anzilotti, Palmer, AK

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Carolina Anzilotti, Palmer, AK 3/7/2024 14:51

# Kirsten Hibbs, Anchorage, AK

Give me one good reason why you would take away the option of having a midwife deliver babies in Alaska?
This has been a wonderful option for years that many of my friends and family have used. They say to follow the money, and I can definitely see what motivates you, Mr Dunleavy!

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

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Kirsten Hibbs, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 15:07

# Anna Mchenry, Palmer, AK

Gov. Dunleavy, listen to your Alaskan women. We do not agree with this bill.

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Anna Mchenry, Palmer, AK 3/7/2024 15:13

# Mary Cooper, Wasilla, AK

An important option for giving birth. Mid Wives do way more than deliver babies.

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Mary Cooper, Wasilla, AK 3/7/2024 15:14

# Sarah Sandefur, Wasilla, AK

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Sarah Sandefur, Wasilla, AK 3/7/2024 15:38

## Danielle Willis, Kodiak, AK

Women should get to choose. No ovaries no opinion.

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Danielle Willis, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 15:40

## Mindy Dalebout, Kenai, AK

All mothers deserve to choose who and how they want to Have there baby..

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Mindy Dalebout, Kenai, AK 3/7/2024 15:53

## Tatiana V, Kodiak, AK

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Tatiana V, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 16:00

## Sonja Graves, Juneau, AK

Alaskan Midwives prefer to be regulated by medical professionals and not government bureaucrats.

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Sonja Graves, Juneau, AK 3/7/2024 16:07

# Sarah Rastopsoff, Kodiak, AK

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Sarah Rastopsoff, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 16:30

# Joshua Locke, Eagle River, AK

It just doesn't make sense to take certification of widwives out of the hands of midwives.

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Joshua Locke, Eagle River, AK 3/7/2024 17:03

# Sharon Miller, Wasilla, AK

Alaska Midwives are a valuable. It would be a devastating thing if they were no longer available to provide their amazing services.

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Sharon Miller, Wasilla, AK 3/7/2024 17:06

## Mara El-Khoury, Anchorage, AK

All three of my pregnancies and deliveries were through midwives, and I would not change the experiences I had. It would be a mistake that would negatively impact thousands of Alaskans to change how the midwives operate.

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Mara El-Khoury, Anchorage, AK 3/7/2024 17:14

## Stephanie Marshall, Kodiak, AK

Midwives are an essential part of women's healthcare. The fact that this is even up for debate is absolutely appalling! The government has no right to control when and where, or how women choose to give birth.

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Stephanie Marshall, Kodiak, AK 3/7/2024 17:35

# Lowell Perry, Kasilof, AK

Governor **Dunleavy** and All **Alaskan Legislators**:

I am writing to urge you to *support* <u>SSCR07</u>, <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u>, and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers'</u> <u>right to choose the best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

Additionally, I am urging you to *support* <u>HB 175</u>, which updates the licensing standards to National Certified Professional Midwife standards, increasing the safety of Midwife attended births.

Alaska's Midwives are a critical asset to healthy pregnancies, safe and healthy births, and healthy babies.

*Maintaining the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives* is a <u>critical part of the care</u> Alaska's Midwives provide Alaskan mothers every day.

## SAFER BIRTHS AND HEALTHIER BABIES

Under the training, oversight, and administration of the Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Board, Midwife attended births have produced:

- **Lower Maternal Mortality** (0 recorded maternal deaths in Midwife attended births) compared to 6-20 under Doctor directed and hospital births.
- 17% fewer Cesarean sections.
- Improved breastfeeding experiences and outcomes.

## MIDWIVES PROVIDE CRITICAL CARE

<u>Eliminating the 5 Medical Professionals</u> from the *oversight, administration, and training* of Alaska's Midwives will lead to worse outcomes for *Alaskan mothers and babies*.

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PROTECT THE MIDWIVES BOARD

Submitted via the Alaska Right to Life Committee PO Box 201134 | Anchorage, AK 99520 Info@AlaskaRightToLife.org | (907) 232-2211 I urge you to <u>rescind</u> or <u>disapprove</u> <u>EO 130</u> and <u>protect Alaskan Mothers' right to choose the</u> <u>best care</u> for themselves and their babies.

### UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES

Additionally, I urge you to support, pass, and sign <u>HB 175</u> into law. <u>HB 175</u> strengthens the Midwives Board's ability to maintain and improve the care they provide mothers and babies.

Lowell Perry, Kasilof, AK 3/7/2024 18:09

## Michelle Sitton, Palmer, AK

Midwives are a very necessary part of health care for many people. Home births are made safer by having a knowledgeable and capable team around. Many of us would be forced to be without care if hospitals were our only option of care... and appropriate representation is a must.

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Michelle Sitton, Palmer, AK 3/7/2024 18:53

## Francine Kazenoff, Fairbanks, AK

I don't believe the board of certified direct entry midwives is a significant financial drain on our state. Having this board allows medical professionals who actually work in this field to regulate and manage themselves, as they have effectively done for many years. I don't see why this change was proposed and am of the mindset of not meddling with something that has been working. Alaska is a relatively safe and wonderful place to birth children due to our inclusive and collaborative direct entry midwifery model being integrated into the larger medical system. I personally work in Fairbanks as a labor/delivery RN in the hospital setting and also chose to birth out of the hospital 3 times and was thankful to have had that option. Let's continue to allow the certified direct entry midwives to do their work without worrying about administrative meddling. They are expanding safe health care options to our families and should be allowed to continue their work without the proposed change to their board. Thank you.

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Francine Kazenoff, Fairbanks, AK 3/7/2024 19:05

# Gayle Eastwood, Petersburg, AK

Midwives should be available to every woman as an alternative to going to Juneau for a minimum of four weeks prior to the delivery date to give birth in the hospital when living in another community, is just one example. A midwife could go to the community a couple of days before the due date, or flying in the same day, saving hundreds of dollars to the new parents.

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Gayle Eastwood, Petersburg, AK 3/7/2024 19:24