

January 23, 2024

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, Distinguished Members of the HCIFS Committee:

My name is Acadia Gantz, I use she/her pronouns. I am a Certified Professional Midwife and have been serving the birthing people of southern and western Maine since I became licensed in 2020.

I am here today to testify against LD1205, an amendment to the statute that governs licensed midwives Sec.1 32 MRSA 12539. Data collection and quality improvement is very important to us as midwives, and our concern with this bill is not about data collection happening, but rather the way in which this amendment proposes it happening.

Firstly, when a change is made to the Database Application of Vital Events (DAVE), the online system utilized by the Maine DHHS Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, it should come from within the Office itself, and be applied equally to all perinatal professionals.

Secondly, this information is already being collected by the Board of Complementary Health, which oversees our licensure and rule making. Should there be a concern about the type and amount of information being collected, it would make sense that this concern be brought before the board in an effort to amend the data collection process, rather than change the wording of the statute.

To summarize, while I am not against the concept of an increase or streamlining of data collection, I oppose the way in which they have been presented in this amendment, and encourage you to vote ought not to pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Acadia K Gantz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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