

Jackie Karnoff
Waterford
LD 1205

Subject: Opposition Testimony Against Bill Affecting Certified Professional
Midwives' Data Collection Practices

Jackie Karnoff: Graduate of Birthwise Midwifery School, a Midwife assistant and
consumer of Maine home birth services

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Honorable Meyer of Eliot

Dear Representative,

I am here to express my opposition to LD1205, which proposes changes to the data collection practices of certified professional midwives (CPMs). The importance of data collection for healthcare providers is crucial to evaluating success and improvements. CPMs already have a collection process in place that is highly successful and available to the public. I believe that singling out CPMs for additional requirements is unjust and could have detrimental consequences for the birthing community.

It is essential to recognize that CPMs are already subject to rigorous standards set by relevant professional organizations and licensing boards. Introducing disparate data collection standards for CPMs implies a lack of trust in the existing regulatory mechanisms governing their profession. LD1205 seems to unfairly target CPMs by imposing additional onerous data collection requirements on them, while other birth providers are exempt. It seems as if the goal of this bill is to begin a process of controlling a profession the committee is uneducated about.

Maine CPMs currently provide accessible, culturally sensitive, and personalized maternal care, ultimately contributing to improved maternal and newborn health outcomes especially in our underserved communities. The data and evidence is already accessible to the public and I urge the committee to do their research and review the data.

Instead of singling out CPMs, I urge you to consider a more comprehensive approach that ensures standardized data collection practices across all birth providers. This approach would promote fairness and equality within the healthcare system, without unfairly targeting a specific group of practitioners.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will consider the potential consequences of LD1205 on the practice of certified professional midwives and the choices available to expectant parents.

Thank you for your dedication to serving our community.