Antonia Piccone
Cushing, ME
LD 1205

My name is Antonia Piccone and I am a student midwife, birth doula and resident of Cushing, Maine. I am writing to express opposition to the newly drafted LD1205, which would require the opening of Certified Professional Midwives' licensing law statute. This would put Financial and Human Resource burden on the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation which houses the licensed midwives' and certified midwives' regulatory board. The proposed bill would replace the existing data collection language in the statute and require reporting to an external body, in this case, the state CDC. Robust data is currently annually reported by licensed midwives to their licensing board, where it can be collated for quality assurance and consumer protection purposes. This data can be requested for viewing by the public. Maine is in a maternal health state of crisis with continued hospital labor and delivery closures and a provider shortage. The new and aggregated data that this bill is proposing, if it were to be implemented, would need to be collected by all birth providers in the state, including when a transfer of care occurs from one hospital to another higher level of care facility, in order for it to fully provide a picture of birth outcomes in the state. I would recommend approaching the CDC directly to implement changes to the birth certificate forms or to introduce additional data collection requirements for all maternity providers in the state, rather than single out the professional licensing statute of a very small licensee population that attends roughly 2% of all births in Maine. Broad change requires broad input from the perinatal health community. It is inappropriate for this process to occur through the statute of one isolated licensed perinatal healthcare profession. I respectfully recommend this process move through rulemaking directly with the DHHS and the broader perinatal community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the state of Maine.

Antonia Piccone