

The North Carolina Friends of Midwives Talking Points for CPM Legislation

(from NARM's Planning for Legislation Handbook)

What is a CPM?

The CPM credential is a **NATIONALLY** recognized midwifery credential that has received the prestigious certification by the National Commission on Certifying Agencies. The CPM credential is issued by NARM -The North American Registry of Midwives.

Sound Bite: CPM's are Specialists in Home Birth!

CPM's are the only providers experienced in attending out-of-hospital birth. NC should give legal status to CPMs in particular because the CPM credential is the only national midwifery credential that requires clinical experience in out-of-hospital birth. **A NURSE-MIDWIFE OR DOCTOR WHO IS TRAINED EXCLUSIVELY IN HOSPITALS IS NOT PREPARED TO PRACTICE SAFELY IN THE HOME ENVIRONMENT.** NC families should have access to legally practicing CPM's to attend home births.

Sound Bite: Who are Home Birth Parents?

They are from every demographic in the state of NC. They are young and mature parents, every socioeconomic class and every profession. They involve every type of religious and political affiliation. They are insured and uninsured. In the US, 1% of the population chooses home birth.

Sound Bite: Home Birth is About Choice

Some families choose it because they have had bad experiences in the past with birthing in the hospital. Others choose it because they want to enjoy the intimacy that celebrating the birth in their own home provides. Many choose it because for them, they feel it is the safest place to give birth. Still others choose it because they are uninsured and cannot afford the staggering cost of maternity coverage of the expense of a hospital birth.

Sound Bite: The CPM Credential Works!

It would be exorbitantly expensive for NC to create its own educational evaluation credentialing process for direct-entry midwives. The CPM process is already developed and working in 22 states. It has been found to be psychometrically sound and legally defensible, so the government would incur fewer expenses in licensing CPM's to practice in NC. These midwives are not posing any kind of danger to the public welfare and no state has chosen to overturn this legislation once it has been passed. Direct-entry midwives are regulated and legal in 22 states where they are part of the health care system.

Sound Bite: NC is Overdue for Licensing CPMs!

The trend across the US is toward acceptance of the CPM credential for the licensure of Direct-Entry midwives. All 22 states that license midwives to attend home births use the CPM process, many having midwifery licensure for over 25 years! Only 10 states limit the practice of midwifery to CNMs. The rest are considering CPM legislation now. The women and families of NC deserve **NO LESS** than the women and families of all these other states. NC should be on par with neighbor states of South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Florida as well as 18 other states across the country (Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.)

Sound Bite: Licensing CPMs Allows All People to Have Access to Midwifery Care

Only licensed healthcare providers are eligible for insurance and medicaid reimbursement. When insurance and Medicaid are not available to pay for midwifery care, then midwifery care is limited only to the wealthy who can pay out of pocket for their care.