

**Sound Bite: Midwifery Care is Cost-Efficient!**

Midwifery care is more economical for the state, the insurance companies, and the parents because a home birth with a midwife costs less than a third of the cost of a hospital birth. Home birth midwives avoid unnecessary interventions, which saves money and avoids risks of costly complications for both mother and baby.

**Sound Bite: NC Must Make Midwifery Care Available To All Women in All Settings!**

NC licenses CNMs to attend home births, but only three CNM practices and one physician in the state do so. These practices in no way fill the need for the number of home births statewide. NC families should have access to midwifery care in all settings, as has been recommended by national and international health research organizations. Licensing CPMs is a way the government of NC can make midwifery care available to mothers in ALL settings.

**Sound Bite: Home Birth is Not Illegal in the State of North Carolina!**

There is no NC statute that prohibits physicians or CNMs from attending homebirths. NC law even made a provision in 1983 for one lay-midwife, Lisa Goldstein, to practice legally. She continues to practice today.

**Sound Bite: Choosing a Midwife-Attended Home Birth is a Personal Freedom that is Protected by the US Constitution!**

Why is NC denying its residents access to qualified, nationally certified midwives to fill the current void of home birth providers? State governments are MANDATED by the US CONSTITUTION to "protect the general welfare" and not curtail personal freedom in the absence of evidence that such freedom poses a threat to public health and welfare. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE THAT THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY IN HOMES POSES ANY THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

**Sound Bite: Failure to Provide Access to Midwifery Care in All Settings Puts Mothers and Babies at Risk!**

Some women are going to have home births whether they have legal, trained attendants or not. By refusing to license CPMs, NC encourages a climate where pregnant women choosing home birth have limited or no access to physician consultation, labs or ultrasounds. This results in a lack of options for home birth families that in turn, may stimulate an underground network of fear where accountability may be compromised, and unassisted birth encouraged as a solution. Because evidence shows that planned, midwife attended home birth is a responsible choice for most women (at least as safe as doctor-attended hospital births), and statistically much safer than unattended home birth, NC has a public health obligation to enable CPMs to practice legally in our state. Failure to provide access to CPM's is prejudicial and places mothers and babies at risk.

**Sound Bite: Many Counties in NC are Under-Served by OB/GYN's**

UNC's 2001 Study on The Trends In The Supply and Distribution of Obstetric Care in North Carolina found that in 1998 14 counties in NC did not have even one physician who reported attending at any practice location and 10 counties offered no prenatal care whatsoever. CPMs are filling a serious void in North Carolina's maternity care.

**Sound Bite: Home Birth is Safer than Hospital Birth for Most Women!**

In fact, extensive research has shown just the opposite: FOR WOMEN WHO DO NOT HAVE A SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITION OR COMPLICATION, A PLANNED MIDWIFE-ATTENDED BIRTH IS AS SAFE OR SAFER THAN A DOCTOR ATTENDED HOSPITAL BIRTH. Licensing CPMs is a way NC can fulfil its obligation to protect the general welfare while protecting our freedom. Licensing CPMs lets NC make sure that midwives who are practicing have met reasonable and sensible requirements and are accountable for their practice.