

LB 712
Health and Human Services Committee
February 9, 2012

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Director, Division of Public Health

Good afternoon, Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Dr. Joanne Schaefer (J-O-A-N-N S-C-H-A-E-F-E-R), Chief Medical Officer and Director, Division of Public Health, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. I am testifying on behalf of the Department in opposition of LB 712.

LB 712 would eliminate the current statutory language that restricts Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) from attending home births.

The basis for the Department's opposition is the potential increased risks associated with deliveries in home settings that do not provide access to appropriate resources in the event of an emergency situation.

Over the years, there have been different bills introduced to eliminate the current restriction on home births by CNMs. There was a 407 review conducted in 2006. Copies of the Credentials Review (407) Report were submitted to the Legislature that specifically rejected arguments to allow certified nurse midwives to provide home birthing services. Since that time I have not received any information that would cause me to change my position on this issue.

I would be happy to answer any questions.