

March 1, 2013

Senator Kathy Campbell
Health and Human Services Committee
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing to you concerning LB 428, which would eliminate the current statutory language in the Certified Nurse Midwife Practice Act that restricts Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) from attending home births.

Over the years, there have been several bills introduced to eliminate the current restriction on home births by CNMs: most recently, LB 481 in 2009, LB 581 in 2011 and LB 712 in 2012.

In 2006, there was a 407 review conducted to determine whether the scope of practice by a CNM should be expanded to include home birthing services. A 407 review consists of evaluations from a technical review committee, the State Board of Health and the Director of the Division of Public Health. These evaluations are supported by considered analysis of current research, practices and experiences of similar licensees in other states, and availability of appropriate resources in the event of an emergency, among other things. The criteria for review are set out in statute. All three of these reviewers recommended not expanding the CNM scope of practice to include home birthing services.

Copies of the above-mentioned 407 reports are attached to this letter and were submitted to the Legislature for consideration in 2006.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joann Schaefer, MD
Chief Medical Officer – State of Nebraska
Director, Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: Sen Ken Haar