

February 5, 2025

Senator Beverly Gossage
Chair, Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
300 W. 10th · Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Support for Senate Bill 41, Adding advanced practice registered nurses to the definition of healthcare provider for purposes of the healthcare provider insurance availability act.

Dear Senator Gossage & Members of the Public Health & Welfare Committee,

I am recently retired as owner of New Birth Company (2010-2024), a KDHE licensed Midwife Led Birth Center in Overland Park. I am writing as a proponent for passage of SB41.

The Certified Nurse Midwives have enjoyed the protection of the Healthcare Stabilization Fund since July 2023. Most plans insure employed Certified Nurse Midwives at a rate of 18.5% if she works at a Physician practice or Hospital. Independent certified nurse midwives may only access the Availability Plan at the higher 21.5% surcharge. Physicians have access to 11 rate classes across a wide spectrum of risk classification. A certified nurse midwife who transitions into Teaching, Administration, Clinical Director or support role in a Maternal Fetal Medicine, OB office, wellwoman care can only access the most expensive full scope rate. This has caused many Kansas Certified Nurse Midwives to lose employment or to stop practicing altogether.

In discussion with Clark Schultz and knowledgeable persons in the Healthcare Stabilization Fund, the underwriting of multiple risk classes demands more participants. It is reasonable to invite all classes of APRNs to participate in the HCSF, such that all the benefits and responsibilities of independent practice are shared, including acknowledging that a CNM providing primary care for women should be insured at a lesser rate commiserate to a Women's Health Family Nurse Practitioner.

The financial pain and career ending circumstances endured by Certified Nurse Midwives deserves a cure. I am a proponent for any legislation that recognizes our rural maternity provider crisis and enables every type of maternity provider to serve at multiple levels and locations throughout her professional career consistent with her license.

I am writing in strong support of SB41 and the inclusion of all classes of APRNs in the Healthcare Stabilization Fund.

Please call me at 816-210-8964 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kendra Wyatt, Chief Executive Officer (retired)

New Birth Company (2010-2024)

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