

Talk to your Representative about HB 342

Why do women want an out-of-hospital birth?

- **Safety:** Evidence is overwhelming that for a healthy woman having a normal pregnancy, a planned, midwife-attended out-of-hospital birth is as safe or safer for mother and baby as a doctor-managed hospital birth.
- **Quality:** Some women prefer the quality and continuity of care that is provided by a direct-entry midwife.
- **Affordability:** Out-of-hospital birth is a more affordable option for some families.

Why do we need to change the law?

- Only Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) can practice legally in Alabama, but they are not allowed to attend out-of-hospital births in Alabama.
- Direct-entry midwives practice legally in at least 34 states, and are licensed in 15 of those states.
- Current Alabama law makes it impossible for women who prefer healthy natural childbirth to access legal, competent care providers.
- Alabama laws should respect reasonable and safe healthcare choices such as midwife-attended home birth by ensuring access to legal care-providers.

What is a direct-entry midwife (DEM)?

- A DEM is a person who has entered the midwifery profession directly through midwifery education and training, and not through a pre-requisite program such as nursing.

How do we propose to change the law?

- We are asking the legislature to legalize, register, and regulate the practice of direct-entry midwives who have met the requirements for the Certified Professional Midwife credential.

What is the Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) credential?

- The Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) is a credential awarded by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) to an independent practitioner who has met the standards for certification set by the NARM and is qualified to provide the Midwives Model of Care.
- The NARM certification process recognizes multiple routes of entry into midwifery and includes verification of knowledge and skills and the successful completion of both a Written Examination and Skills Assessment.
- The CPM credential requires training in out-of-hospital settings.



Alabama Friends of Midwives

Promoting, Supporting and Protecting Midwifery in Alabama

Contact: Chloe Raum, Huntsville AFOM, 256 859-1352
Lisa Clark, Legislative Committee, 256 655-6403
Mail: P.O. Box 5644, Huntsville, AL 35814
Email: Huntsville@AlabamaMidwives.com
Internet: <http://www.AlabamaMidwives.com>