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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 11, 2008

Sabina Howell  
Board Counsel  
PO Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Ms. Howell:

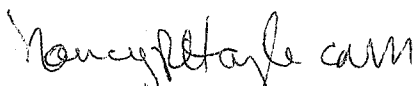
We are a group of practicing certified nurse-midwives working at The Birth Center in Bryn Mawr, PA, and want to offer comments on the proposed regulations. The State Board of Medicine is working on the implementation of Act 50, P.L. 324, No.50, which directs the Board of Medicine to "adopt, promulgate and enforce regulations that establish requirements for prescriptive authority for midwives to be met by individuals so licensed who elect to obtain prescriptive authority" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are concerned that the Board may be exceeding the directive of legislature, the Governor's Office of Health Care Reform, and the agreement between PMS, ACNM and PALM. These organizations agreed to limit the new regulatory language to prescriptive authority, as granted by Act 50, without seeking to restrict or otherwise change midwifery practice. We are very glad to see the proposed language to establish requirements for prescriptive authority for midwives as mandated. But some of the other proposed changes in language affect key areas for midwives, specifically:

- 1) The original legislation did not change the definition of midwifery from the prior definition in the State Regulations. The proposed definition by the State Board of Medicine changes the definition of midwifery. This definition does not resemble any national or international definitions of midwifery (World Health Organization, International Federation of Midwives, American College of Nurse-Midwives). We would ask that the language of our definition would remain.
- 2) The current definition of midwifery practice allows midwives to collaborate with MDs & DOs. The proposed language change will restrict our collaborative physicians to only those who are regulated by the Board of Medicine (MDs). This would eliminate a whole group of collaborating physicians and would restrict access to care. In fact, at The Birth Center, our Medical Director, Dr. Joseph Castelli, is a DO, and so, this change would present us with quite a dilemma.
- 3) The prescriptive language ought to be put into Section 18.6, not under the main section of the definition of general midwifery practice. The intent of the legislation was to require a master's degree only for those who intend to prescribe, NOT as a general requirement for midwifery practice.

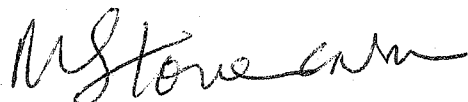
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We really hope that the regulations can be written to reflect the real world practices that affect us midwives who are caring of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We hope the ambiguities may be clarified and that the original intent of the legislation can be realized.

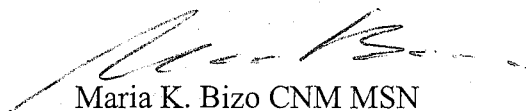
Sincerely,



Nancy R. Hazle CNM, MSN



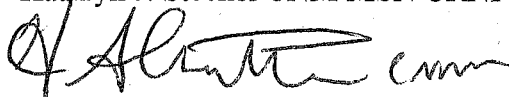
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