



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE OF ILLINOIS

May 9, 2012

Governor Pat Quinn
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

President John Cullerton
327 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Minority Leader Christine Radogno
108 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Speaker Michael Madigan
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Minority Leader Tom Cross
316 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn, President Cullerton, Leader Radogno, Speaker Madigan and Leader Cross,

This is the year to fundamentally change Medicaid. The \$2.7 billion deficit to be addressed this year means that everything is on the table.

We write to advocate for language to license certified professional midwives as Medicaid-reimbursable providers in this year's Medicaid reform legislation.

The cost savings can be significant. Medicaid covers half of all Illinois births and hospital births are expensive. There is no hospital fee to pay when a mother on Medicaid chooses a home birth with a licensed certified professional midwife. Further, certified professional midwives charge much less than physicians.

Washington State estimates they save at least \$2 million biannually from the certified professional midwives in their Medicaid program. Our savings could be as much as \$5 million a year.

12 states currently reimburse certified professional midwives in their Medicaid programs and another 15 license certified professional midwives. These are safe providers that offer expanded services at lower cost.

