



HOW IS THIS HOME BIRTH BILL DIFFERENT?

Midwife bills have come and gone before. How is this one different?

This bill is different because it contains language from the historic US MERA agreement regarding the licensure of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs).

What is US MERA?

Last year, all of the major US midwifery education and credentialing bodies* got together and agreed upon language for CPM licensure. This language sets standards for education that meet the criteria set by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM).

Why does that matter?

It matters because the national office of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists now officially supports the ICM standards. *The language in our new bill meets those standards.*

“The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) endorses the ICM education and training standards and strongly advocates the ICM criteria as a baseline for midwife licensure in the United States, through legislation and regulation. Women in every state should be guaranteed care that meets these important minimum standards . . . All midwives — whatever their title or professional designation and regardless of where they practice — should meet the ICM standards, to ensure access to safe, qualified, highly skilled midwives in all settings including birth centers”

Companion document to the ACOG Policy Statement on Midwifery Education and Certification and the Obstetric Care Consensus document, Levels of Maternal Care, developed jointly by ACOG and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. April 20, 2015

* US MERA is the US Midwifery Education, Regulation and Association, a coalition that convenes annually, comprised of representatives of national midwifery associations, credentialing bodies and education accreditation agencies: Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC), Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA), National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM), and North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)

NOW THAT ALL NATIONAL PLAYERS AGREE ON EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR MIDWIVES, IT’S TIME FOR ILLINOIS TO JOIN 30 OTHER STATES THAT PROVIDE THEIR HOME BIRTH FAMILIES WITH SKILLED, EQUIPPED, REGULATED PROVIDERS WHO ARE SPECIALISTS IN OUT-OF-HOSPITAL DELIVERIES.

SUPPORT THE HOME BIRTH SAFETY ACT

HB677 & SB1754

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