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January 22, 2015

Dear Esteemed Members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee,

Thank you for taking time to hear testimony on SB 69, the APRN Practice Bill. I have a particular interest in this issue because of my rewarding experience receiving prenatal care and giving birth under the care of a Certified Nurse Midwife. I urge passage of SB 69.

Our family was grateful to give birth to our youngest daughter at home, under the care of Emily Hester, CNM. My relaxed, comfortable home, coupled with the exceptional care by medical providers completely attuned to our birth preferences, provided an ideal environment for welcoming our newborn into the world that made for a fantastic bonding experience. Unlike with my first child, I experienced immediate breastfeeding success, among other benefits.

Especially when contrasting this birth experience with my previous unmedicated hospital birth, I've become a strong advocate that women have access to a variety of providers and locations when deciding about their birth plan. I support CNMs having full practice authority so that more expectant mothers and families can experience this kind of care, regardless of the type of facility where they choose to birth.

I've worked with several nurse practitioners in addition to my midwife, and each experience has been a positive one. I find nurse practitioners easier to develop relationships with, typically, than other medical providers. Especially for something as intimate as pregnancy and birth, this offers a huge benefit.

I was lucky to have great health insurance for both of my pregnancies and childbirths. However, another very tangible benefit to working with a CNM was lower cost. My husband owns a small business, so our health care usage can quickly escalate the cost of premiums that his growing business must sustain. Knowing that my birth choices were not only more personally satisfying, but also that they contributed to lower overall health care costs for his company was a huge benefit.

Being able to hire a Certified Nurse Midwife, who provides medically-accurate, evidence-based medical care in nontraditional settings is important for our family and our state. CNMs are exceptionally gifted at helping families welcome babies into this world.

I ask that you support APRNs and CNMs having full practice authority.

Sincerely yours,

Vanessa Sanburn
Lawrence, KS