



## The MN Certified Midwife Practice Act (HFXX/SFXX)

The US is facing a maternal health crisis: rising levels of maternal mortality and morbidity, stark racial disparities, high costs of medical care, and a shortage of maternal health providers projected to worsen.

The MN Certified Midwife Practice Act (HFXX/SFXX) would help to address Minnesota's maternal health needs by creating a new avenue for midwifery licensure in Minnesota – the Certified Midwife (CM). CMs would be licensed to practice midwifery in Minnesota, with high standards for education, training and certification, and the same midwifery scope of practice as Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs). With this legislation, licensure of CNMs and CMs would be under one board (the MN Board of Nursing) to ensure consistent scope of practice and regulatory requirements. The MN Certified Midwife Practice Act would:

- **Expand patient access** to a form of maternity care (midwifery care) that is high-quality, cost-effective, and evidence-based with positive maternal and infant health outcomes;
  - Research has demonstrated that midwifery care is associated with positive birth outcomes for mothers and infants.<sup>1</sup>
  - A recent study from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health found that incrementally shifting toward midwife-led care over the next 10 years would result in 30,000 fewer preterm births in the U.S. and \$4 billion in combined savings for private and public health plans<sup>2</sup>.
- **Grow the diversity** of Minnesota's maternity care workforce, and address the aging of the workforce;
  - CM education programs attract candidates from diverse backgrounds and professions, broadening the diversity of the midwifery profession.
  - Research demonstrates the benefits of a racially diverse maternity care workforce<sup>3</sup>. Currently less than 10% of midwives in MN identify as midwives of color.
  - With 30% of licensed CNMs in MN over the age of 55 years, Minnesota is positioned to lose nearly one-third of its midwife workforce to retirement over the next 10 years. CM licensure would help to bring a next generation into midwifery practice in Minnesota.
- **Alleviate the strain** on RN educational programs by providing a pathway to midwifery for those with a bachelor degree outside of nursing, thus reducing the cost and length of time to become a midwife;
- **Allow Minnesota to keep pace** with the twelve other states that already license Certified Midwives;
  - CMs are currently licensed in AR, CO, DE, HI, ME, MD, NJ, NY, OK, RI, VA, and DC, with numerous other states also pursuing the licensure of CMs.
- **Enable the University of Minnesota** to begin an eagerly-awaited Certified Midwife education program, with the current University of Minnesota's Nurse Midwifery Program ranking second in the nation.

*Supporters of the MN Certified Midwife Practice Act (HF1324/SF1743) include: MN Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); the Childbirth Collective; Hennepin Healthcare System, Hennepin County, Hennepin Health, NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center; MN Council of Certified Professional Midwives (MCCPM); Roots Community Birth Center; Dr. Rachel R. Hardeman, PhD, MPH Associate Professor, and Dr. Katy B. Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA Professor, Division of Health Policy and Management, University of Minnesota, Dr. Melissa Saftner, PhD, CNM, Professor and Midwifery Program Director University of Minnesota School of Nursing.*

<sup>1</sup> [Midwife-led continuity models versus other models of care for childbearing women - Sandall, J - 2013 | Cochrane Library](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sph.umn.edu/sph-2018/wp-content/uploads/docs/policy-brief-midwife-led-care-nov-2019.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [Mortality rate for Black babies is cut dramatically when Black doctors care for them after birth, researchers say](#)