

# **SB385 Midwifery Licensure Act**

**introduced by Senator William R. Haine**

*and, as of March 6, Senators Sandoval-Peterson-Martinez-Delgado,  
Collins, Harmon, Cullerton & Rutherford*

## ***SB385 protects homebirth mothers and babies by ...***

- Assuring that midwives are trained and skilled in risk assessment, normal childbirth, procedures to prevent and handle childbirth complications in the out-of-hospital setting, and emergency procedures;
- Requiring Illinois Licensed Midwives to practice by national industry standards set by the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives;
- Setting a standard for patient-specific emergency plans for each homebirth;
- Allowing for physician consultation and referral without requiring specific contractual agreements, which drive midwives out of business.

## ***The licensure requirements in SB385 ...***

- Assure that midwives possess professional competency by requiring that they maintain the national Certified Professional Midwife credential, administered by the North American Registry of Midwives, which is in turn accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). [NCCA is the leading authority on accreditation and accredits the credentialing organizations of over 150 healthcare professions including Podiatrists, Nurse-Practitioners, Certified Nurse-Midwives and Nurse Anesthetists];
- Mandate that midwives have completed an educational process approved by NARM that includes didactic and clinical components, including pharmacological training in the administration of medications necessary to treat postpartum hemorrhage and to comply with state-mandated medication, testing, and screening for newborns;
- Establish continuing education, peer review and re-licensure requirements.
- Offer public trust in midwives proven to provide safe homebirth care  
[see "Outcomes of planned home births with certified professional midwives: large prospective study in North America." Johnson and Daviss. British Medical Journal 2005;330:1416 (18 June)];
- Bring Illinois into compliance with recommendations of the American Public Health Association (APHA). The APHA "encourages the development and implementation of guidelines for the licensing, certification and practice of direct-entry midwifery practitioners" [Resolution adopted October 24, 2001].

## ***SB385 is supported by ...***

American College of Nurse-Midwives Chapter IV-2 (Illinois); Health Medicine Policy Research Group; North Eastern Illinois Doula Association; Illinois Families For Midwifery, International Cesarean Awareness Network, Chicago Chapter; Birthlink; Doctors for Midwives of Illinois.