

House Health & Human Services

03/24/2026 Upon Adjournment

HB26-1092 Licensed Midwife Public Health Facility Privileges

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
JEANY RUSH  For  themselves	<p>TO: HOUSE HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE</p> <p>RE: HB26-1092 LICENSED MIDWIFE PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITY PRIVILEGES</p> <p>SPONSORS: S LUCK, J WILLFORD, ET.ALL</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO CONSTITUENT 3-11-26</p> <p>VOTE: YES "BECAUSE" I TRUST REP S. LUCK</p> <p>FOLKS:</p> <p>To be clear I understand the situation, I am under the impression that Colorado is a "Right to Choice" state when it comes to patients and their right to make decisions about their bodies, their medicines, and what to take, do and not DO! I am also under the impression that state law has authorized THIS independent practice.</p> <p>I agree with the licensing parameters, and the request to treat licensed midwives as the other professionals in the medical situation, and in the staff. It is right that they be given equal privileges to conduct their job, given to them by their patients!</p> <p>Let me just remind you all that this week, this body voted to protect clean spaces for dogs and cats, while shooting down the same rights for women having 2nd and 3rd trimester abortions. Colorado values Wolves, dogs, cats, more than human beings, as evidenced by a whole host of bills to denigrate, harm, and generally disregard the health of children and women. "Lest you forget, days ago you all had a bill to have Colorado be your</p>

	<p>Pimp Daddy.â€” Talk about a Conspiracy! WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?</p> <p>I had two naturalâ€™ childbirths when I was young. We got more information and training from the midwives in our day, and that was over 50 years ago. It is a disservice to not give the proper respect. Further, hospitals let us down horribly by dispensing a bioweapon and often without permission in IV bags. It is time we entered the age of Informed Consent!</p>
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My name is Rebecca Searles, and I am a Certified Professional Midwife/Registered Midwife practicing in Windsor, Colorado. I am writing in support of House Bill 26-1092 because it would improve continuity of care and strengthen safe transfer relationships for the families I serve. As a home birth midwife, I care for healthy, low-risk clients and work within a model that prioritizes appropriate risk screening, informed choice, and timely transfer when higher-level care is needed. When transfer is necessary, the quality of that transition can significantly impact both clinical outcomes and the patient's experience.

Currently, many certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) are unable to obtain or maintain hospital privileges without a supervisory or written collaborative agreement with a physician. This limits the number of midwives practicing within hospital settings and reduces opportunities for midwife-to-midwife transfer.

This matters in real and practical ways for my clients. When hospital-based midwives are available, transfers can be more seamless, with improved communication, continuity of care, and a shared understanding of physiologic birth and patient preferences. When that option is not available, transitions are more fragmented and stressful for families.

HB26-1092 does not expand scope of practice. It simply ensures that public hospitals cannot require CNMs and CMs to have a supervisory or written collaborative agreement as a condition of obtaining or maintaining privileges—aligning hospital policy with existing Colorado law recognizing these providers as independent practitioners.

Expanding access to hospital-based midwives would:

- Improve collaboration between community and hospital providers
- Support safer, more coordinated transfers
- Increase access to maternity care in underserved areas
- Strengthen continuity for patients across settings

Colorado is facing significant maternity care access challenges, including rural shortages and limited provider availability. Better integration between community birth providers and hospital-based midwives is an important step toward addressing these gaps.

From my perspective as a community-based midwife, this bill supports safer systems of care—not just for my clients, but for families across Colorado.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Searles, CPM RM

Windsor, CO

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