

Senate Health & Human Services  
 03/09/2023 01:30 PM  
 SB23-167 Board Of Nursing Regulate Certified Midwives  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
shara Frederick For herself	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I've been a licensed Certified Midwife in NYS for 6 years. I work in a high volume unit providing full scope midwifery care in Brooklyn, NY. My practice is comprised of CNMs and CMs, together we delivery 800-1000 babies a year which is &gt;20% of our hospital's deliveries.</p> <p>I became a CM instead of a CNM because I knew I wanted to be an OB/Gyn provider and not a nurse. I completed a program that gave me the skills, training and education to function as an independent, full scope midwife.</p> <p>I support this legislation in CO to increase the midwifery workforce. A larger midwifery footprint in Co, is a win for all the women and families in your state.</p> <p>Thank you,            Shara Frederick, CM            Park Slope Midwives            NYP Brooklyn Methodist</p>
Shannon Pirrie For herself	<p>I am a nurse-midwife (CNM) and am also the specialty director of the nurse-midwifery program at the University of Colorado College of Nursing. I have a unique view on the potential impact that the certified midwife (CM) licensure could have on our community, state, and health care overall. About half of the students in my program have not worked as nurses prior to applying to our program; they apply while in their Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) program so that they can immediately continue to midwifery education. This tells me two things, one it says that there are students in these nursing programs who have no intention of being nurses, therefore, are taking up spaces that could be given to folks who plan to be nurses. Two, it says that these students would likely consider becoming a CM in place of a CNM if the scope was rightfully identified as equivalent here in Colorado.</p> <p>I would also like to share with you that I regularly receive emails for folks in the community asking what is the route that they need to go through to become a midwife when they aren't not already a nurse. This is a sad journey to explain to a person. You need to first complete a BSN program, then you can start our CNM program, and this will all take about five to seven years.</p> <p>We know that there is and will continue to be a maternity care shortage in our state and country. We can help this by becoming one of the few states in the western United States to recognize the CM and give them equal licensure to the CNM. This will allow health care facilities and</p>

	<p>academic institutions, like the University of Colorado College of Nursing, to consider how the CM can and will integrate into our systems and educational programs. The approval of the CM licensure will increase the number of midwives in Colorado, increasing access to care, decreasing barriers to education, and improving patient outcomes.</p>
<p>Kristen Tamblyn For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Chairwoman and Committee Members,</p> <p>I feel compelled to share my thoughts as we consider opening a new avenue to midwifery in our community with the introduction of the CM credential with SB23-167. Colorado needs more midwives, and I am in support of this bill. Midwives have stellar outcomes, provide services at a lower cost to the individual, insurance, and Medicaid, and are consistently rated with greater birth satisfaction by the birthing parent, lower incidences of prenatal and postpartum depression, and much higher rates of lactation at discharge from care.</p> <p>I wish to speak on behalf of Certified Professional Midwives—community midwives who have expertise and specialty in homebirth and out of hospital birth, and have focused our learning and practice to this particular area of the birthing community. We are direct-entry midwives, just like the Certified Midwives we are considering today.</p> <p>This bill not only paves the way for the CM credential in Colorado, but also allows CMs to practice with an expanded scope of practice and abilities to prescribe and dispense the same medications as CNMs (Certified Nurse-Midwives), despite not being nurses themselves. This will be good for clients, Colorado families, and communities, who often rely on midwives for gynecological care and birth control, not just care during pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period.</p> <p>I am hopeful that this bill will pass and that Coloradans will have more options for birth, and more midwives to support them in that journey.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kristen Tamblyn, CPM (inactive, pending renewal)</p>