

Dear Families,

On behalf of the Community Midwives of Ohio (CMO), we are reaching out to you with a critical request to preserve, promote and protect midwifery in Ohio. House Bill 537 is currently being considered in the Ohio Legislature. It is in process in the Children and Human Services Committee and is important legislation for midwives, birth centers and birthing families in the State of Ohio.

As a family who may have experienced both hospital birth and midwifery-led homebirth, your voice carries a unique and powerful perspective—one that the legislative members of the Committee need to hear. Please consider sharing your story in writing regarding your satisfaction and importance of the care you received from a traditional midwife (these are non-nurse midwives: CPMs, CIMs, DEMs) with the Committee. Your story should tell your experiences, the care you received, how you were treated, how decisions were made, how you were respected both physically and emotionally and your overall satisfaction with the outcome.

This bill is beneficial for Ohio childbearing families and upholds these important key points:

1. Provides a licensing mechanism for Certified Professional Midwives and Certified International Midwives under the Ohio Board of Commerce with the creation of the Licensed Midwifery Advisory Council to establish rules/regulations/oversight of licensure;
2. Upholds the practice of Traditional Midwives (non-nurse midwife) separate from licensing and directs the obtaining of a written/signed informed consent document which protects consumers' bottom-line rights in all birth decisions;
3. Eliminates the written transfer agreement between a freestanding birth center and a hospital which opens the opportunity for birth centers to thrive in Ohio;
4. Establishes in the law the rights of parents to have full decision making about the type of maternity care provider they work with, as well as the place they choose to give birth.

Please promote midwifery by sharing your story and desire for this midwifery bill to be enacted. There is no need for perfect wording, only honesty. Whether your story is brief or detailed, it has impact. By sharing your experience, you are not only honoring your own journey but also helping protect and expand access to midwifery care for families across Ohio. Personalize your letter with drawings by your children and/or family photos as an impactful addition. Letters do not have to be from mommy, they can be from daddy, or others too!

Some very important steps are:

- DO NOT DATE the letter;
- Address your letter to “Dear OHIO LEGISLATOR”

Only refer to the TRADITIONAL MIDWIFE and MIDWIFERY BILL. Do not use your midwife’s name or use the bill numbers. (Example: Dear Ohio Legislator: I am writing to you to let you know how important Traditional Midwives are to my family and how much we need the Midwifery Bill to pass.) Using this language should make your letter timeless, and we might not have to ask you to write yet again. We will be able to utilize your letter in the future, if necessary.

Email your letter to Chair White and the following representatives:

Rep36@ohiohouse.gov (Andrea White, Chair)
Rep51@ohiohouse.gov (Jodi Salvo, Vice Chair)
Rep11@ohiohouse.gov (Crystal Lett, Ranking Member)
Rep22@ohiohouse.gov (Darnell Brewer)
Rep28@ohiohouse.gov (Karen Brownlee)
Rep26@ohiohouse.gov (Ashley Bryant Bailey)
Rep88@ohiohouse.gov (Gary Click)
Rep54@ohiohouse.gov (Kellie Deeter)
Rep99@ohiohouse.gov (Sarah Fowler Arthur)
Rep30@ohiohouse.gov (Mike Odioso)
Rep66@ohiohouse.gov (Sharon Ray)
Rep86@ohiohouse.gov (Tracy Richardson)

There are 3 ways to submit your letter:

- (1) email it directly to the above Reps
- (2) regular mail to the below mailing address to each of the above reps
- (3) give your letter to your midwife so that she can send it forward to be received by Legislators.

Your letter needs to be received by Aug. 20, 2026. You may have submitted a letter previously in the past couple of years (for midwifery House Bills that died). You could adapt that same letter using the above instructions.

Please help CMO archive consumer letters by sending a copy of your email/letter to: communitymidwivesofohio21@gmail.com

Here's a template you might want to use:

(NO Date!)

Ohio General Assembly
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ohio Legislator,

I am writing to you today in support of the Midwifery Bill and to help you understand how vital Traditional Midwives are in Ohio and in this bill. *State what you want to say. You could briefly include your birth history, your satisfaction with midwifery care and/or dissatisfaction with any previous care you might have received or just stand up for parents' rights to choose where and with whom to give birth.* I request that the Ohio Legislature quickly move this bill through the steps to pass this year!

Your name,

Address
Contact information

One last request:

CMO has hired a lobbyist. A lobbyist is someone who works full-time at the Statehouse to represent our interests. He keeps a close watch on our bill, meets with legislators, explains why the bill matters, answers their questions, and lets us know immediately when action is needed. Because he is there every day, he helps protect the bill and gives it the best chance of becoming law. His work benefits not only midwives but also the families who choose midwifery care. Please consider donating to CMO to cover our expenses of his important service for all of us.

Currently there are 3 ways for CMO to receive donations:

- Check made payable to Community Midwives of Ohio
c/o Monica Honeycutt, 4829 Deerfield Court, Mantua, OH 44255
- Give, Send, Go – www.givesendgo.com/G6GVE
- Venmo - www.venmo.com/u/CommunityMidwivesOfOhio

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

Community Midwives of Ohio