

**Bill Number: HB 6439 - An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2023, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Women's Health Connecticut is a 270+ physician and provider group, providing ObGyn services to the women of Connecticut. Certified nurse midwives (CNMs) play an integral role in the care we provide, with more than 30 CNMs actively working on our team. Given their importance, we believe SB 764, supporting better Medicaid reimbursement, should be signed into law and, as it relates to budget, we advocate for initial funding to be appropriated through this committee.

We feel that it is reasonable and fair for CNMs to receive the same reimbursement as an obstetrician-gynecologist for providing the same services. Further, they may play a role in reducing the cost of maternal care overall for our state. In recent years, Connecticut midwives have attended in approximately 10-15% of the vaginal births annually and studies have shown them to be instrumental in helping to lower cesarean deliveries, the rate of induction and the use of anesthesia. The ability to keep and attract more CNMs to our state – and make further inroads with such cost savings - will be directly impacted by assigning the proper level of reimbursement for their work. We feel the time is now and we underscore that investing in this effort now may ultimately save the State unnecessary future healthcare expense.

Thank you for your consideration in passing this important legislation.

*The Advocacy Committee for Women's Health Connecticut*