

Yale School of Nursing

To: Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

From: Erin Morelli, MSN, CNM, CLC, C-EFM
5 Redcoat Lane
Trumbull, CT 06611

Re: Public Testimony for SB 764: An Act Concerning Medicaid Providers

Date: February 15th, 2021

Erin M. Morelli, MSN, CNM, CLC, FACNM
Director Yale Midwifery
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Dear Connecticut Lawmakers,

Passing this legislation would be critical for ensuring access to high quality nurse-midwifery care for many women of Connecticut. I am a Certified Nurse-Midwife and director of the Yale Midwifery Faculty Practice. Our practice cares for many patients with Medicaid in the New Haven area.

Nurse-midwives already have parity with obstetrician-gynecologists in the five other states of New England. In 2011, the Affordable Health Care Act brought payment parity at the federal level for Medicare. However, a large majority of childbearing age patients do not qualify for Medicare and instead have Medicaid/Husky. Some practices with nurse-midwives in Connecticut have to limit the number of patients they can accept that have Husky insurance, because there is not payment parity.

Midwives do not only see patients for prenatal, birth and postpartum care. They also support patients for a wide range of gynecology care, including preventive visits, family planning, STD screening, lactation and menopause. Much research has shown that in health care systems that invest in midwifery have a less interventions and a higher vaginal birth rate. That higher vaginal birth rate includes a significant cost savings for the State of Connecticut and is also in line with national healthcare standards to decreased the Cesarean section rate.

I am asking you to make an investment in the women of Connecticut and their access to nurse-midwifery service by supporting this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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