



February 21, 2022

House Health Finance & Policy Committee

RE: Concerns with Certified Midwife bill—HF 1522

The Minnesota Medical Association, representing over 11,000 physicians and physicians in training, writes to express strong concerns with the expansive scope of practice proposed in HF 1522, the Certified Midwife bill, and outlined in the MN Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives' (ACNM).

The MMA supports improved access to maternal services, especially those designed to address the health disparities that exist in pregnancy and other maternal services. However, the proposed certification establishes a scope of practice that extends beyond the provision of maternal services.

As with any legislation that proposes the regulation of a new health care provider, the first concern must be to protect the health and safety of Minnesotans. This proposal creates large potential patient safety concerns.

The definition of "certified midwifery practice" included in the bill is not limited to maternal care. It includes "the management, diagnosis, and treatment of women's primary health care...." This includes ordering, performing, supervising, and interpreting diagnostic studies. It also gives the ability to prescribe medications, including scheduled drugs, and provide "gynecological care of women across the life span." These services are provided completely independently.

In fact, in the petition submitted on behalf of the new certification requirement, it states on page 2, "*CMs provide a full range of health care services to women in all stages of life, from the teenage years through menopause, including general health check-ups, screenings and vaccinations; pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care; well woman gynecologic care; treatment of sexually transmitted infections; and prescribing medications, including all forms of pain control medications and birth control.*" This is not maternal care—this is full spectrum primary care services for women.

If HF 1522 is to move forward, it should be focused on improved prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care, not on expanded primary care services for which a certified midwife is not fully trained to practice.

Sincerely,

Randy Rice, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association