

Dear Mr Douglass,

I am one of your constituents (living in Newport) and also happen to be a licensed midwife, and for the past 10 years I have been providing prenatal care, birth and postpartum services for those planning homebirths in the Northeast region of our State. I am asking you to please pass favorably S.18.

Our region is in need of such an option of a free standing birth center - and especially now that we see an influx of Amish families moving into the area - and they are of childbearing age! My fellow midwife in the area and I are feeling overwhelmed and it would be to everyone's advantage if they could birth in a communal space such as their own "birth house" in order to keep up with the demand they are placing on us. Please - Not everyone feels safe in the hospital setting and actually prefer to birth in their own chosen familiar home environments and/or birth center. This affects no one negatively, it supports freedom of choice and actually saves the State money in the long run. Please vote favorably on this.

Sincerely,

Sybille Andersen, V TLM, CPM

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