Testimony for Public Hearing
Appropriations Committee
March 3, 2019

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Bill Number: 7148: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNium ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

Chairs and members of the Human Services Committee,

I write in support of 7148: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNium ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR

My name is Dawn and I have long been a patient of nurse-midwives. My experiences with my midwives have been healing and life-changing personally as well as physically. Please include funds in the budget to equalize reimbursement rates for Nurse-Midwives in the Medicaid Program.

The care I received with my midwives should not be reimbursed at a discounted rate, and I think women everywhere should have access to midwifery care. The states all around us in New England have stopped this deduction, and so has Medicare - women in Connecticut should have the same access to midwives and their special brand of care.

- CNMs are licensed, autonomous health care providers with prescriptive authority in Connecticut.
- Studies show that women cared for by Licensed Midwives have lower rates of cesarean deliveries, induction rates, anesthesia use, and higher breastfeeding rates.
- Midwives provide many types of women’s healthcare beyond maternity care: contraceptive coverage, annual well-woman exams, STI testing, breastfeeding support, domestic violence screening, cervical cancer screening, breast cancer risk assessment, and other women’s preventive healthcare services.

Please support 7148: AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNium ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR

To value healthy mothers & babies is to fully value CNMs/CMs and midwifery care! I urge the
Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to support 7148.
Thank you for your time,