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From: Sydney Kessing <sydkess@gmail.com>
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Subject: testimony letter
To: <elizacnm@gmail.com>

Testimony for Public Hearing
Appropriations Committee
March 5, 2019

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

Chairs and members of the Appropriations Committee, I write to urge you to make patient outcomes and cost savings a priority as you set the upcoming state budget. My name is Sydney Kessing and I am a registered nurse currently working on Labor and Delivery at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Although I have only been in practice for just over 3 years, I have had countless positive stories with our midwives who have given our patients’ such beautiful birthing experiences. Ending the 10% discount in reimbursement to nurse-midwives will help mothers by increasing access to nurse-midwives. These highly skilled providers have repetitively been shown to reduce cesarean sections and decrease preterm births with NICU admissions, therefore quickly saving money for the state.

Midwives serve as such strong patient advocates. This includes but is not limited to preventing both primary and repeat cesarean sections. I have watched their skills and patience allow for safe vaginal deliveries of healthy babies after a previous cesarean section. In providing the support to these moms and allowing for the opportunity for a vaginal delivery, they have not only decreased cost for the state but have also increased patient satisfaction. A midwives care is never done after the baby is born. So many times when I am struggling to get a baby to latch to breast after a delivery, the midwife has stepped in to help me support my breastfeeding moms. They stand with their patient’s every step of the way providing the support and care women need. With such positive outcomes, why not expand access to midwives those with healthcare disparities?

The midwifery model of care has been proven safe, cost-effective, and enjoyed by patients and families. Please follow the example of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and
Maine - provide equitable reimbursement for midwives providing women's health, prenatal and birth care in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time.