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From: Eliza Holland <elizacnm@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 10:11 PM
Subject: Re: Written testimony for midwives - Wednesday noon deadline
To: <nladybugg@aol.com>

Testimony for Public Hearing
Appropriations Committee
March 5, 2019

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

Greetings to the Committee Chairs and members. My name is Nicole Starno, and I am a master’s trained nurse clinician on Labor & Delivery at Yale-New Haven Hospital. I have been in practice for thirteen years, and I have seen it all. I write to encourage you to leave room in the budget for ending the 10% deduction on midwifery reimbursement through Medicaid. Ensuring a robust midwifery workforce in the state will quickly save money because of patient education and improved outcomes.

As I stated in the previous paragraph, I have literally seen in all on Labor and Delivery. I have the opportunity to work with various healthcare professionals and have learned that women’s health is not just a practice but also an art, which has been perfected by the midwifery profession. I have witnessed midwives counsel the high-risk teen population on safe-sex practices, positive body image, self-respect, and the responsibility that accompanies young parenthood.

Co-morbidities continue to threaten the human population, along with poor diet, lack of exercise, and failure to educate, particularly among women. So, one can only imagine the implications this can have on the body of the pregnant female and her unborn fetus. But even with these concerns, I have not seen an increase in operative deliveries, emergent obstetrical situations, or adverse outcomes among the midwifery population. There is something to be said for patient education, patient advocacy, and continuous bedside care.

The women’s body is a beautiful and absolutely amazing thing. There is great joy that comes with caring for a human being and delivering it safe and sound in the end. But there is so much more to it. It is about caring for the one body you are given, believing in yourself and your strength, and feeling supported while you do it. Midwifery defines nursing in its holistic approach to patient care: mind, body, and soul. I have been lucky to work along side and be care for by some of the most talented midwives. I have found strength in myself and
the art of caring for the laboring patient. I have gained a confidence that has prevented patients from an operative delivery, unnecessary medical interventions, and poor mom-baby bonding; I can thank the expertise and knowledge provided by the nurse-midwives I know.

Please follow the example of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine - save money by balancing reimbursement for midwives providing women’s health, prenatal and birth care in Connecticut.

Thank you for your time.