



California Association of Licensed Midwives Talking Points

- Earlier this session the California Medical Association lobbied for legislation that would have severely restricted access midwives and out-of-hospital maternity care.
- The bill was tabled after midwifery supporters from across the state called and met with our legislators about it.
- Looking forward, what midwifery supporters would like is for CMA to work in cooperation with CALM on positive legislation that will fix the problems in California's midwifery law.

Two of the major problems with the current law are: Regulating Licensed Midwives under the Medical Board, which creates an inherent conflict of interest that has needlessly obstructed the regulatory process; and the requirement that some women must be examined by a physician before they can continue care with a midwife, which creates arbitrary and costly barriers to access.

- Physicians do not want the liability burden that a mandatory exam creates.
- Families have the right to choose midwifery care and women have the right to make personal decisions for themselves, in consultation with their midwife, about whether they are an appropriate candidate for midwifery care or out-of-hospital birth.
- CALM and midwifery supporters in California would like the current law to be updated to reflect evidence-based practice, remove current barriers to care, and address regulatory conflicts of interest by creating a midwifery board.
- Licensed Midwives are the only health care professionals in California that do not have their own board.
- Creating a board for Licensed Midwives can actually save the state money because midwives already have professional standards and practice guidelines in place and without obstruction from the Medical Board, the adoption of evidence-based regulations can move forward quickly and efficiently.