



March 9, 2021

Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: SB21-101

Dear Senators:

On behalf of Families Forward Resource Center, a community-based organization serving the Aurora/Denver metro area, I ask that you support SB21-101.

Direct Entry Midwives are important to our organization's work in eliminating infant and maternal health mortality in the African American/Black communities. Families Forward Resource Center is a grantee of the national Healthy Start Initiative, and we are the only Healthy Start Initiative in the state of Colorado. Through our work in supporting families, we have found that midwifery is major component in supporting mothers throughout the perinatal and birth process, and a trusted healthcare resource for communities of color.

It is important to our community that the DEM Sunset include changing the language to "licensure" for midwives to ensure consistency and increase access, and allowing DEMs to practice in birth centers to allow consistency of care for families if their needs or desires change during pregnancy.

I am excited to support this policy and plan to follow the progress of the bill as it moves through the Legislature.

Respectfully,

Chanell R. Reed

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Executive Director

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Strong Families, Strong Communities

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