

Dear Senator Fields,

I am writing to you as a Midwife and a member of the community about the Certified Professional Midwifery Sunset. This bill will allow Certified Professional Midwives to serve more of their community.

I serve the community of Denver/Aurora.

My community is rich in culture, vibrant diverse city with a long-standing history of embracing immigrant and refugee populations. Today more than 270 different languages are spoken in Aurora. Many of the people in Aurora are looking for providers that look like them. As a midwife, many of my clients are fearful of hospital care as they don't have the opportunity to have a provider that look like them. Study's have shown that birthing outcomes improve when your provider looks like you.

I am writing to ask that you vote in support of DEM sunset.

As a black midwife, I see regularly People of Color, Low in income and LGBTQIA, that have not felt heard or acknowledged in the conventional birthing establishments. They are asking that a provider hear them and respect their needs and cultural differences.

It is important to me that the DEM Sunset include:

- Changing the language to "licensure" for midwives to ensure consistency and increase access.
- Permitting GBS prophylaxis so that more families can make the choice to test for GBS if they would like.
- Allowing Certified Professional Midwives to practice in birth centers to allow consistency of care for families of their needs or desires change during pregnancy.

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

Donna Blythe