



# *Rochester Area Birth Network*

A Chapter of BirthNetwork National  
“It’s your birth... Know your options.”



## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

**Rochester Area Birth Network strongly supports NYSALM proposal to amend section 6951 of the education law to eliminate the requirement of a written practice agreement.**

Whereas, the infant and maternal morbidity and mortality rates are rising in the US, and

Whereas, the countries around the world who implement the Midwives Model of Care have the lowest infant and maternal mortality rates, and

Whereas, “13 to \$20 billion a year could be saved in health care costs” by implementing the Midwives Model of Care in the US, and

Whereas, when midwifery (a separate specialty profession) is governed by its most immediate competitor through instruments such as written practice agreements, those agreements constitute restraint of trade,

Whereas, as such, the written practice agreement is a barrier to women who seek midwifery care, and

We therefore conclude: *Rochester Area Birth Network strongly supports the elimination of the written practice agreement (WPA) from midwifery practice and licensing laws in New York State.*

### References:

Hatem, et al; “Midwife-led Versus other models of care for childbearing women”. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2008, Issue 4, Art. #CD004667.

“*THE COALITION FOR IMPROVING MATERNITY SERVICES: EVIDENCE BASIS FOR THE TEN STEPS OF MOTHER-FRIENDLY CARE*”, *Journal of Perinatal Education*, Vol. 16, No. 1S, winter 2007, Page 1 – 4; Lamaze International Publication

*Born in the USA: How a Broken Maternity System Must be Fixed to Put Women and Children First* – Marsden Wagner, MD

*J Midwifery Women's Health* 50(2): e10-8, Mar–Apr 2005

Sakala & Corry; *Evidenced based maternity care: What is it and what it can achieve.*; The Milbank Memorial Fund & The Childbirth Connection; NY, NY, 2008.