

CPM Licensure Elevator Speech

Can I have 5 minutes of your time to talk about Legislation to licence and integrate Certified Professional Midwives in NC?

This bill creates licensure for Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs or CPM) in North Carolina.

The CPM credential is reserved for midwives that have met rigorous clinical and academic requirements set by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) and accredited by the National Commission on Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

CPMs are qualified to provide maternity care for low risk pregnancies, as well as identify complications and arrange for consultation or transfer of care to a hospital when needed.

CPMs are the ONLY maternity care provider required to train in the out-of-hospital setting, thus CPMs are the MOST qualified birth attendant for normal, vaginal birth in the community birth setting, meaning at home or at a birth center.

Home birth is growing in popularity both Nationally and in our state. In NC, we saw a 13% rise in intentional home birth from 2018 to 2019, a 23% rise from 2019 to 2020, and a 21% rise from 2020 to 2021.

CPMs are licensed to practice in 37 states including our neighbors South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The availability of CPMs is a critical factor in reducing perinatal mortality rates and achieving favorable home birth outcomes.

Without CPM licensure, North Carolinians that exercise their right to choose home birth have inadequate access to MD consultation or transfer of care in the case of complications.

The availability of more midwives will help alleviate the shortage of OBs in our state and improve rural access to care.

Research has shown CPM care is a safe option for uncomplicated pregnancies. It is time to capitalize on this underutilized resource and license CPMs in North Carolina.

