



100 Pine Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101
www.MidwivesPA.org

March 22, 2019

Hon. Tarah Toohil
47 East Wing
PO Box 202116
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2116

Dear Representative Toohil:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Certified Nurse-Midwives, representing the Board Certified Midwives of the Commonwealth, we are writing to express our support for the certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) designation legislation that you are re-proposing in the 2019-2020 session.

Proposed in the last session as HB 719, this bipartisan legislation would officially recognize CRNAs as a separate entity from the Registered Nurse designation under the Professional Nursing Law. This distinction is a critical step in acknowledging not only the advanced practice of the CRNA, but also the robust presence of these practitioners here in the state. As midwives who care for clients in obstetric and gynecological settings, we often collaborate with CRNAs, and we understand their invaluable contributions in labor pain management, OB/GYN procedures, and neonatal care. As peers of CRNA students in the many graduate nursing programs in Pennsylvania, we understand the rigor of clinical and theoretical work that the CRNA curriculum requires. As colleagues of CRNAs across the state, we support efforts like this legislation to retain them here at home in our educational and healthcare institutions, and as they represent the Commonwealth in the military and in other professional contexts. Your legislation would help to bring Pennsylvania up to date with the nation in recognizing the critical importance of CRNAs in the healthcare of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Dana Perlman, CNM
PA-ACNM Legislative Chair

Emily C. McGahey, CNM
PA-ACNM Legislative Co-Chair

Amanda McPherson Shafton, CNM
PA-ACNM President

Information about Midwives licensed in Pennsylvania

Board Certified Midwives in Pennsylvania are highly trained, hold graduate degrees, and have rigorous clinical education. Board Certified Midwives have an impeccable record of outstanding outcomes. Board Certified Midwives primarily attend births in hospitals and birth centers with a 33% relative increase in numbers of midwifery attended births in Pennsylvania between 1990 and 2009. Board Certified Midwives attended 13% of births in Pennsylvania in 2017. In the US, 49% of counties lack an OB/GYN. High quality care depends on a seamless collaboration with the entire health care team.