

August 12, 2016

Senate Member Kevin de León, President pro tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1306—Support

Dear President pro tempore de León,

We write to express our strong support for AB 1306 and urge members of the Senate to swiftly pass the bill on the full floor. The bill will remove the physician supervision requirement from the Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) statute, which has not been linked to improved patient safety or superior health outcomes. As CNMs practice independently without physician supervision in forty-four other states, the evidence that CNMs provide safe and effective care is strong. AB 1306 is a critical step towards improving maternal child health and expanding access to high value pregnancy care, a key priority for our members and their beneficiaries in California.

The Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH) is a not-for-profit organization that represents 65 large public and private employers dedicated to improving quality and affordability throughout the U.S. health system. Though we are a national organization, our roots in California are strong, and we are deeply knowledgeable and experienced in how care is financed, organized, and delivered in the state. Last year, our members spent more than \$12 billion providing coverage to over three million California employees, retirees, and dependents.

Employers are alarmed by the skyrocketing costs and worsening health outcomes for mothers and newborns. CNMs can help to improve outcomes and reduce costs, since they are trained to provide care that involves fewer unnecessary interventions and promote healthier care environments for mothers and babies.

Physician supervision restricts the services midwives are able to provide, thereby diminishing the potential impact of their services and limiting CNM availability in areas with few or no obstetricians. Expanded access to CNMs will improve the quality of care for pregnant women and newborns while also saving the healthcare system millions in unnecessary care, with potential annual savings of \$80 to \$440 million¹ through reduced inappropriate C-sections. AB 1306 will allow CNMs in California to practice at the top of their licenses in collaboration with physicians, but without the barriers imposed by unnecessary supervisory requirements.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important legislative effort to increase access to Certified Nurse-Midwives in the state of California. Please contact us should you require any additional information or clarification.

¹ <https://www.cmqcc.org/resource/cesarean-deliveries-outcomes-and-opportunities-change-california-toward-public-agenda>



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Sincerely, David Lansky
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