FROM: **Suzy Myers** and the Midwives and Mothers in Action (MAMA) Campaign

TO: Midwives, mothers, and supporters of choice in maternity care

The Midwives and Mothers in Action (MAMA) Campaign has been working hard to achieve federal recognition for Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in the health care proposals being worked on in Congress this summer. Specifically, we want to have CPMs added to the list of mandated Medicaid providers. We have an opportunity to achieve this now, because Congress is currently in Washington, D.C., amending and refining health care reform bills.

We have been working all summer long to introduce key members of Congress to CPMs and the services they provide. We are happy to report that many members of Congress know who we are, support our work, and will vote for an amendment we have proposed that would add CPMs to the list of federally mandated Medicaid providers.

Senator Cantwell is one of the members who has indicated support for our amendment. But ours is only one of many potential amendments to the health care bill, all demanding the Senator’s attention. **We need you to write a letter of encouragement to her now – and perhaps again -- telling her to take action on this issue.**

Your letter can be short, but pointed and personal. Personal letters from constituents are critical and make a huge impact. Please write and fax or email a short letter TODAY!

MAMA CAMPAIGN INSTRUCTIONS AND TALKING POINTS FOR E-MAILED OR FAXED LETTERS TO YOUR SENATOR’S OFFICE:

1. Please **fax** your handwritten or typed letter to the Senator’s Washington, D.C. office at 202-228-0514

2. If you are unable to send a fax, the next best thing is to send your letter by using the Senator’s **web-based e-mail** form at [http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/](http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/)

3. If you would like to help but don’t have time to write, a **phone call** to the Senator’s Washington, D.C., office is also helpful.
   **Phone:** 202-224-3441

Suggested language:

“I am a constituent and I ask that **Senator Cantwell** support efforts to improve the maternity care system by adding Certified Professional Midwives to the list of providers covered by Medicaid. It’s so crucial that we expand access to maternity care as a component of health reform. I urge her do what she can to ensure this provision is included in health care reform language.”
4. If you wish to write an expanded, more personalized letter, at the end of this document are a list of talking points to help you explain why Senator Cantwell should ask Chairman Baucus to add this amendment to the bill. You do not need to use them all. We encourage you to make this a personal letter from you. We do not want these to look like form letters. We do suggest, because the chairmen are looking for cost-savings wherever they can find them, that you might want to emphasize the second and fourth bulleted points in the list of talking points below.

Note: For clarity’s sake, please be sure to write out “Certified Professional Midwife” rather than “CPM”.

5. Share a brief personal detail if possible and relevant, for example: “Two of my children were born at home attended by Certified Professional Midwives. I believe all women regardless of their income should have access to the safe, high-quality, cost-effective care provided by Certified Professional Midwives.”

6. Sign off with your name, address, and contact information.

7. If the Senator’s office would like more information about our efforts to pursue this important Medicaid improvement, they may contact Mary Lawlor with the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives at president@nacpm.org or on her cell phone at 917-453-6780. She and other Campaign members will be in D.C. during the next few weeks and may be available to meet with the Senator or her staff.

8. Please send the MAMA Campaign a copy of your letter. Email it to info@mamacampaign.org or FAX to 802-536-4142.

If you haven’t already, please sign up with the MAMA Campaign at www.mamacampaign.org to get e-alerts and find more information and handouts, and also to let us know what else you might be able to do to support this effort, including donations. Thanks so much for all you are already doing and for all you will do this week!

THANK YOU!

• Talking Points:
  CPMs are highly-trained, credentialed clinicians who provide effective, evidence-based maternity care. They are the only maternity care providers specifically trained in attending births outside the hospital and, by assisting in births at home and in birthing centers, offer women an important choice in how their babies are delivered.

• I support the basic principal that health reform should make obtaining care MORE AFFORDABLE for all American. Adding Certified Professional Midwives to the Medicaid list would SAVE MONEY by reducing health care costs immediately.
• Each mother on Medicaid who chooses an out-of-hospital birth with a Certified Professional Midwife would lower Medicaid costs, since Medicaid would otherwise be paying for a hospital birth at greater cost and with much greater likelihood of an expensive cesarean section.

• Research demonstrates that midwives who attend births outside the hospital (at home or in a birth center) have much lower rates of unnecessary and potentially dangerous medical interventions such as inductions and cesarean-sections with at least as good outcomes in terms of maternal and infant mortality, at substantially lower costs.

• Because Certified Professional Midwives provide thorough individualized care that promotes healthy pregnancies, the babies are healthier – more are full term and full weight, avoiding costly health problems.

• Of the twenty-five states that now provide a path to licensure for Certified Professional Midwives, only 9 include CPMs in their state Medicaid programs, so low-income women on Medicaid have difficulty obtaining services. This falls short of genuine and consistent patient choice and access. Certified Professional Midwives and women who want access to them are seeking federal Medicaid reimbursement for their services as one important step to increase access to this kind of maternity care.

• All women deserve to have access to quality, comprehensive maternity care, in the communities where they live, with a choice of qualified provider and services that are fully recognized and reimbursed by both private and public payers.

• As the #1 reason for hospitalization, but with declining quality outcomes in the U.S., it is essential for health care reform to include maternity care.