



CIMS
COALITION FOR IMPROVING
MATERNITY SERVICES

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April 16, 2009

North Carolina Friends of Midwives (NCFOM)
Erin Henry, Secretary, ecm_henry@hotmail.com
Russ Fawcett, Legislative Chair, spigget@aol.com
Amber Craig, Legislative Chair, ambercraig@nc.rr.com

Dear North Carolina Friends of Midwives,

The Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS) salutes you for advocating for women's right to give birth with the support and supervision of certified professional midwives (CPMs). CIMS supports the North Carolina Friends of Midwives' 2009 legislative campaign to lift the prohibition on licensed midwives in the state.

Giving low risk women the option of delivering their babies with a midwife confers several benefits, including lowered risk for complications and cesarean section, increased likelihood to initiate and establish breastfeeding, and reduced health care costs, among others. States that deny women the opportunity to choose their provider and place of birth are placing undue burden on birthing women and are putting women and babies at risk.

Thank you for letting us know about the barriers in North Carolina for women wishing to birth with the support of a professional midwife. We want to extend our heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to all the women and families who are working so tirelessly to give the women of North Carolina this important option.

On behalf of CIMS and all of the women who will make childbirth decisions based on evidence, body wisdom, and their own personal choice, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Nicette Jukelevics, MA, ICCE
On behalf of the CIMS Leadership Team

Making Mother-Friendly Care A Reality

CIMS is a not-for-profit organization recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). Our mission is to promote a wellness model of maternity care that will improve birth outcomes and substantially reduce costs.