

**Illinois Section - American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (IL-ACOG)**  
**Illinois Chapter - American Academy of Pediatricians (ICAAP)**  
**Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP)**  
**Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society (IOMS)**  
**Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS)**

**Oppose House Bill 4341 to License “Certified Professional Midwives”**

Physicians of IL-ACOG, ICAAP, IAFP, IOMS, and ISMS respectively request your “NO” vote on House Bill 4341, which would license “certified professional midwives” and allow them to provide unsupervised home birthing services.

**The certified professional midwives described in this legislation have no authentic comparison to advanced practice nurse midwives, who along with physicians, may offer home birthing services.**

Advanced practice nurse midwives are certified and are educated in both nursing and midwifery. At a minimum, advanced practice nurse midwives must obtain a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in nursing. ISMS supports the current education and licensure standards of advanced practice nurse midwives, but the education and licensure requirements in House Bill 4341 for certified professional midwives are noticeably absent and even if specified would fall well below the standards for nurse midwives.

Certified professional midwives licensed by this bill receive little to no formal medical or nursing training. While the legislation seems to require that candidates obtain training from what is referred to as a pathway accredited by the Midwifery Education and Accreditation Council, there is no single or uniform midwifery curriculum.

House Bill 4341 contains few restrictions on what services are provided by certified professional midwives. The legislation would allow certified professional midwives, who are not trained health care professionals, to perform histories and physicals, provide prenatal care, deliver babies, dispense drugs, treat hemorrhages and other emergencies, and treat the infant and woman postpartum. All of these responsibilities are medical in nature and should only be performed by the professionals who are adequately trained to do so.

There is no restriction on who certified professional midwives could treat. Some women are at higher risk (age, multiple births, former C-sections, diabetes, etc.) for complications. Determining who may be at higher risk should be done by a trained health care professional. Certified professional midwives would have no hospital admitting privileges and will not be prepared to deal with emergencies. Hospital privileges ensure that emergencies, where the life of the mother and the newborn are at risk, are treated by trained medical professionals in a timely manner.

The bill also prohibits the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation from requiring midwives to maintain a collaborative agreement with a physician or be supervised by another licensed health care professional, thus this proposal assures that certified professional midwives would be practicing completely independent of Illinois’ health care system.

**We urge your “NO” vote on House Bill 4341**