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An act relating to midwifery

∞ Section 4 ~ THE LEGISLATURE FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

- (a) Childbirth is a normal process of the human body and not a disease.
- (b) Every woman has a right to choose her birth setting from the full range of safe options available in her community.
- (c) The midwifery model of care emphasizes a commitment to:
 - informed choice, continuity of individualized care, sensitivity to the emotional and spiritual aspects of childbearing, and includes monitoring the physical, psychological, and social well-being of the mother throughout the childbearing cycle;
 - providing the mother with individualized education, counseling, prenatal care, continuous hands-on assistance during labor and delivery, and postpartum support;
 - minimizing technological interventions and identifying and referring women who require obstetrical attention
- (d) Numerous studies have associated professional midwifery care with safety, good outcomes, and cost-effectiveness in the United States and in other countries. California studies suggest that low-risk women who choose a natural childbirth approach in an out-of-hospital setting will experience as low a perinatal mortality as low-risk women who choose a hospital birth under management of an obstetrician, including unfavorable results for transfer from the home to the hospital.
- (e) The midwifery model of care is an important option within comprehensive health care for women and their families and should be a choice made available to all women who are appropriate for and interested in home birth.