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**Doulas of Ithaca
Ithaca, NY**

Doulas of Ithaca
SUPPORT THE MIDWIFERY MODERNIZATION ACT

We are a collective of professional doulas committed to supporting families through one of life's most miraculous and powerful events: the birth of a baby.

Doulas of Ithaca wholeheartedly supports the Midwifery Modernization Act (Senate Bill S5007/Assembly Bill A8117). Removing the written practice agreement would increase access to safe, evidence-based quality care across New York State.

It is crucial that women have the freedom to choose their provider and the type of birth they wish to have. For many women, this includes the services of a midwife. Midwives serve a greater proportion of Medicaid, uninsured, and minority patients than do most physicians. Also, more midwives work in rural areas and underserved areas compared to physicians. Too often the Written Practice Agreement (WPA) requirement acts as a barrier to midwifery care, including in rural areas where there is no physician to sign agreements. Removing the WPA requirement will promote and enhance access to health care services in NY's rural and lower income urban areas, which have shortages of both primary care and obstetric physicians.

It is our great hope that New York State will choose to maintain midwifery as a choice for all women in their childbearing years.

Signed,

Doulas of Ithaca

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