



## Memorandum in Support

### **A.420 (Paulin)/S.1494 (Krueger)**

#### ***AN ACT to amend the education law, the insurance law, and the public health law, in relation to providing for the dispensing of emergency contraception under certain conditions***

The New York State Association of Licensed Midwives ("NYSALM"), which represents the interests of licensed midwives as well as the welfare of women, children and families **supports the passage of A.420/S.1494**, the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act, which authorizes licensed midwives, nurse practitioners, and physicians to prescribe and licensed pharmacists to dispense emergency contraceptive pills within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse. This legislation will prevent unintended pregnancies by providing women of all ages appropriate and timely access to emergency contraception.

#### ***This Legislation Will Give All Women an FDA-Approved Option to Prevent Pregnancy After Unprotected Intercourse***

This legislation will offer women of all ages a safe and effective method to prevent pregnancy when other methods of contraception fail, or in cases of rape, incest or human error. The United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") has approved the over the counter sale of progesterone-only emergency contraception to women over the age of seventeen. However, younger women in New York face barriers to accessing emergency contraception, as current law requires that younger women obtain a prescription from a licensed health care provider.

Unlike other drugs, these pills do not cause abortions. Rather, if administered within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse, emergency contraceptive pills delay or inhibit ovulation or fertilization, thereby preventing pregnancy. By authorizing licensed midwives and other health care professionals to prescribe and pharmacists to dispense emergency contraceptives based on a non-patient specific order, this legislation ensures that women of all ages have access to a safe and effective option for preventing unintended pregnancy. Increased access to emergency contraception will reduce the costs and health risks associated with unintended pregnancy, childbirth and abortion, which can be dangerous to a woman's health, especially a young woman's health.

NYSALM is committed to women's access to all appropriate health care options, including emergency contraceptive pills. NYSALM therefore **SUPPORTS A.420/S.1494**, the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act.