



Memorandum in Support

A.414-A (Paulin) / S.1674-A (Grisanti)

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the insurance law, in relation to premium reduction for obstetric practitioners who complete a risk management strategies obstetrics course

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, voices its support for and strongly urges lawmakers to **A.414-A / S.1674 -A**, which would establish a course in obstetric "risk management strategies" and promote increased consultation between physicians, midwives, and their patients, thus leading to improved care of pregnant mothers and their unborn babies.

This legislation directs the Health Commissioner to create a professional education course for licensed midwives and obstetricians on how to decrease many of the risks associated with childbirth. The continuing education course would address issues for which these professionals need to regularly advise their patients, including: the benefits and risks associated with inducing labor, potential health complications related to late term births and risks associated with repeated cesarean section births. This increased education will enable midwives and obstetricians to give better advice, and allow for pregnant women to share in decisions affecting their health and well being. Such increase in knowledge and open communication between patients and their obstetric providers would lead to healthier babies and decreased birthing complications. As such, the bill also provides that practitioners who complete this course would be eligible for insurance premium reductions. In an era where exorbitant malpractice insurance rates are discouraging licensed midwives from practicing in New York State, providing such a reduction to deserving individuals would benefit all New Yorkers.

As an organization that advocates for measures that lead to increased education and improved healthcare for women and their children, NYSALM **SUPPORTS A.414-A / S.1674-A.**