

## 2016 Legislative Agenda

Licensed midwives provide comprehensive, high quality prenatal care resulting in excellent birth outcomes and higher breastfeeding rates—all while bending the health care cost curve.

- ❖ Thanks to the passage of HB 1773 (2014), the number of licensed midwives in Washington State has increased by 25%. Additionally, all midwives are contributing data to a DOH-approved national database for the purpose of quality improvement and research, allowing for comparisons of outcomes and value across birth settings.
- ❖ We are working toward an integrated maternity care system in which licensed midwives are recognized as the appropriate care providers for those with low-risk pregnancies, and inter-professional collaboration is the norm. Removing silos enhances patient safety and creates a more patient-centered care experience.
- ❖ According to a national study on planned home birth, the c-section rate was 5.2% (Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health, 2014), well below the national average of 26.9% for a comparable low-risk population. (CDC National Vital Statistics Report, 2014).
- ❖ Half of the births in Washington State are paid for by Medicaid. Independent analysis has demonstrated the significant cost-savings associated with licensed midwifery care. As only 3.2% of the population utilizes these services, there is tremendous opportunity to increase access, thereby conferring even greater cost-savings to the state.

Please visit  
[www.washingtonmidwives.org](http://www.washingtonmidwives.org) to  
see our complete e-packet full of  
helpful information and data on  
midwifery care

**Review the Medicaid reimbursement rate for birth center facility fees.** Require the Health Care Authority to review the methodology used for determining birth center facility fee reimbursement. The current fee is antiquated and does not reflect the costs associated with maintaining a modern birth center.

**Support the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (HB 2307/SB 6149).** These bills would require employers to provide basic accommodations to pregnant workers, such as bathroom breaks and flexibility to get prenatal care. These common-sense measures would improve outcomes and reduce downstream costs.