

Legislative and Policy Committee

Goals:

- Promote and protect midwifery, perinatal health and health equity in WA state
- Support national efforts to increase access to midwives and the midwifery model of care



Legislative and Policy Committee

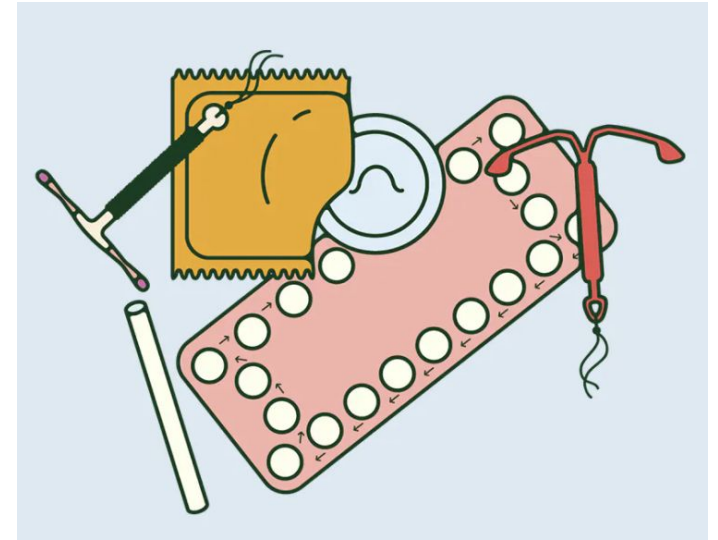
Efforts:

- Influence policy change
- For decades, educate our elected officials especially at our annual Midwife Lobby Day
- Communicate the concerns and needs of midwives & families to the Department of Health, the Health Care Authority, the Midwifery Advisory Committee and third party payors

2022 Policy Accomplishments

PASSED our Bill for two License Extension options to enable LMs who wish to complete additional training, the ability to:

- Obtain & administer hormonal and non-hormonal contraception & meds for common perinatal conditions such as antibiotics for infections like mastitis
- Insert contraception after supervised demonstration of skills (ie, IUDs & Implants)



Original Goal with Bill

- New Zealand as a Model “medications and therapies for common conditions during pregnancy and postpartum”
 - But compromise with the WA State Medical Association for their support of the bill required outlining drug categories
 - Were able to maintain ability to update rules prn
- Some items not on statute “list” due to rushed nature of this change



**Families Deserve
Timely Access to the
Quality Care they
Need**

By: Midwives' Association of Washington State



**Reduce costs and
barriers to care by**

**Eliminating unnecessary
additional visits with another
provider**

Clients might not attend an additional visit with another provider due to cost or insurance obstacles, time, inconvenience, transportation barriers, or new provider trust issues

Photo Credit: Whitney Hardie Photography



Some Statute Details

“A midwife licensed under this chapter who has been granted a limited prescriptive **license extension** by the secretary may prescribe, obtain, and administer:

- (a) Antibiotic, antiemetic, antiviral, antifungal, low-potency topical steroid, and antipruritic medications and therapies, and other medications and therapies as defined in the midwifery legend drugs and devices rule for the prevention and treatment of conditions that do not constitute a significant deviation from normal in pregnancy or postpartum; and
- (b) Hormonal and nonhormonal family planning methods.

A midwife licensed under this chapter who has been granted an additional license extension to include medical devices and implants by the secretary may prescribe, obtain, and administer hormonal and nonhormonal family planning medical devices, as prescribed in rule.” For complete Bill language as passed:

<https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5765-S.pdf?q=20220903061528>

Currently hoping to add during Rule-Making:



- Additional Drug Categories: galactagogues, topical analgesia for anal/vulvar/perineal pain, and
- Preterm labor preventatives, stool softeners, vitamins and minerals for prevention and to treat deficiencies, over-the-counter medications as needed and medications for SAB prevention and completion and smoking cessation and prescription referrals for IV Iron infusions.
- And probably a few more...

More behind the Story:

- Supported by ARNPs United and WA State Medical Association after meetings & minor revisions
- Bill lost most of its bi-partisan support when the Republican caucus sought to add language restricting any potential future scope expansion regarding abortion services which LMs cannot currently provide
- Unsuccessful attempts were made to add amendments in both the House and Senate to remove gender inclusive language updates to the statute
 - The proposed language change to “individuals” was preserved since it would be dangerous legal precedent to indicate that women aren’t individuals



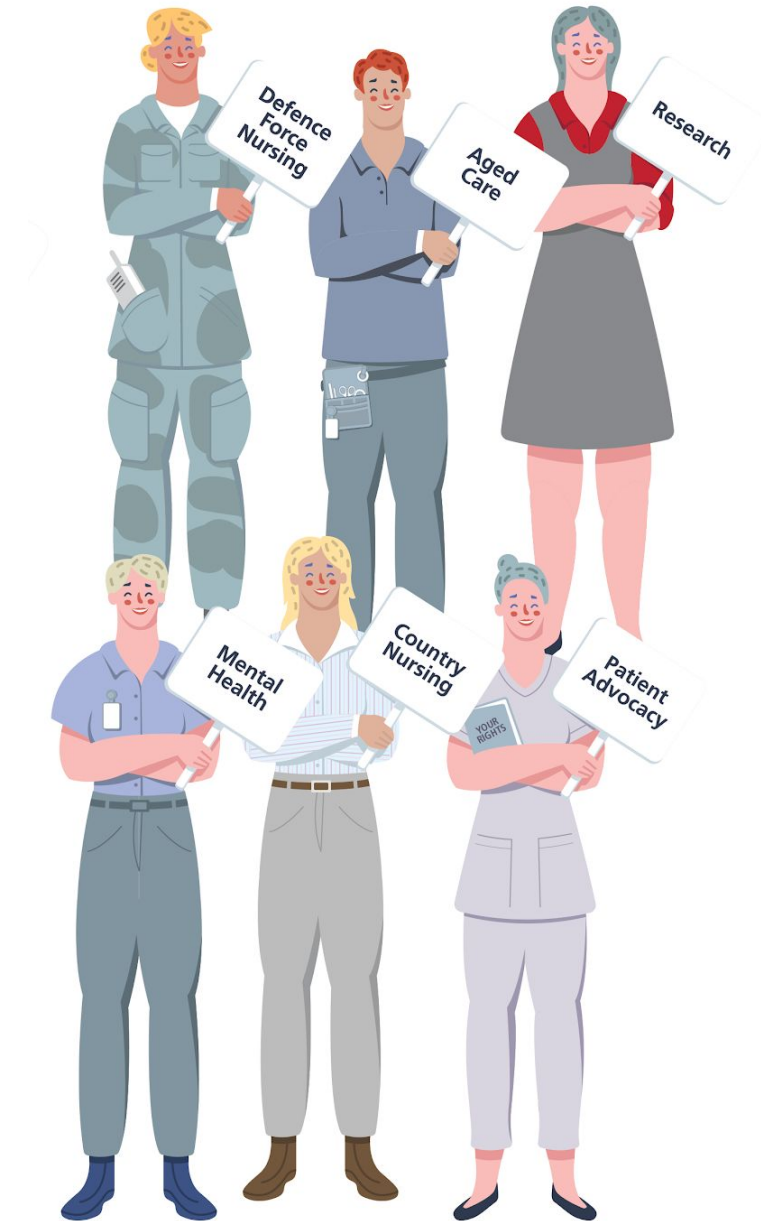
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=5765&Initiative=false&Year=2021>

More 2022 Policy Accomplishments

- Maintained cap on the LM licensing fee included in the House, Senate & Governor's budgets as \$150K line item
- Updated [Drug Legend for LM use of U/S & TXA](#)

Supported also the Passage of the following Bills:

- SB 5702: Insurance coverage of human breast milk from a milk bank while babies are hospitalized
- HB 1651: Allowing providers to bill separately for immediate postpartum contraception
- SB 1881: Access to reimbursement for Doulas
- HB 1947/SB 5838: Providing a monthly diaper subsidy for families receiving TANF

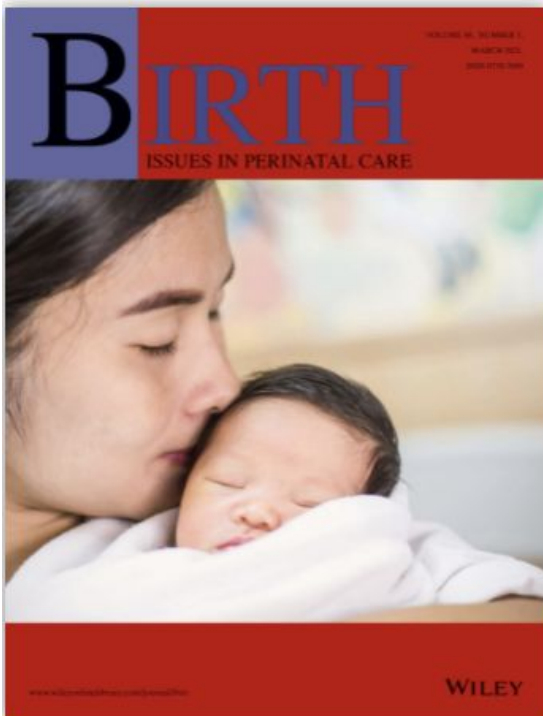
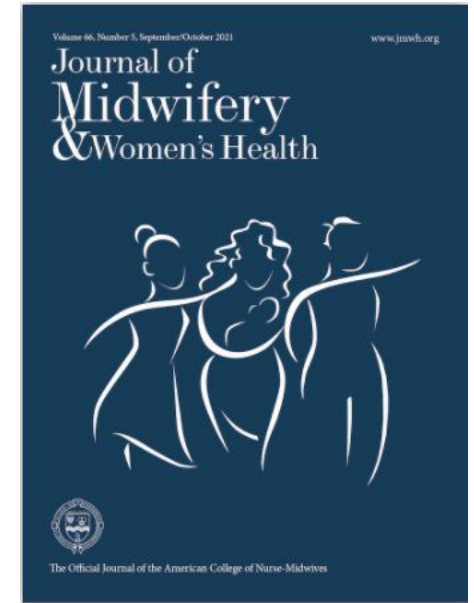


Preparing for Success & Sharing

Increasing Access to Medications and Devices for the Care of Low-Risk Childbearing Families: An Analysis of Existing Law and Strategies for Advocacy

Kristin J. Effland CPM, LM, MA✉, Karen Hays CNM, DNP, ARNP, Britney A. Zell MSM, Tara K. Lawal MS, RN, Rhonda L. Grantham, Megan Koontz CPM, MM

First published: 26 August 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmwh.13275>



Birth

Medication Access & Midwifery Integration: An Example of Community Midwifery Advocacy for Access in Washington State, USA

Open Access <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/birt.12523>

Published Dec 14, 2020

Preparing for Success: Keep up the Good Work Students!



How do we save the healthcare system even more money while increasing access to these benefits?

- Increase midwifery integration into the healthcare system**
Expand client choice of practitioner who can meet their routine perinatal needs, particularly in medically underserved rural and urban areas
- Improving the use of services affects the size and demographics of the workforce without negatively impacting quality of care**

Photo Credit: Whitney Hardie Photography
Featuring Snohomish Co. Based Midwife Maya Johnson



Additional Training Options

SB#5765 will enable Licensed Midwives to meet the growing and increasingly diverse demands of the childbearing population in WA State

Improve timely quality access to needed care

- Years, maybe decades of Talking about it :)

Masters Projects through Bastyr University MSM:

- Zell, B. (2021). The untapped potential of Certified Professional Midwives: Evaluating and improving preparation to provide sexual and reproductive health care. Kenmore, WA: Bastyr University.
- Segadelli J. (2016). The provision of contraceptive services by Licensed Midwives in Washington state: Proposed statutory and regulatory language for expanding the scope of practice [master's thesis]. Kenmore, WA: Bastyr University.



Looking Ahead: 2023

- Pay equity for Midwives
 - Fair reimbursement for commonly underpaid billing codes (BAs, labor management, birth supplies)
 - Collaboration with HCA on maternity bundle and other fair-pay efforts
- Budget Proviso needed to secure the Cap on LM licensing fees for this biennium

Looking Ahead: The Birth Center Regulations



Both MAWS and WARM have submitted petitions to review the Washington state birth center regulations. There are multiple areas that could use updating and modernization.

We do have to be careful as we pursue these changes because once opened anyone with an interest in what we do can propose changes.

Meetings are in progress.

Looking Ahead: The Birth Center Regulations

The main areas that will be reviewed are:

- updating gendered language
- working to separate out responsibilities that belong to the midwife rather than the birth center (ie giving RhIG at a follow up visit, filing a birth certificate or collecting a newborn screen)
- streamlining the inspection process to allow CABC inspection to be used in lieu of DOH inspections (but NOT requiring them)
- removing rapid HIV testing language (which no one is currently doing)
- removing language around paper charting
- removing the restriction around prior uterine surgery
- adjusting room size requirements to be more in line with other outpatient facilities
- Indicating a birth center is “B occupancy,” (a maxi-house), and is not like an ambulatory surgery center (a mini-hospital) in terms of the building requirements
- removing requirement to have a neonatal glucometer at the birth center (as expensive equipment can be a barrier for starting a birth center)





Looking Ahead

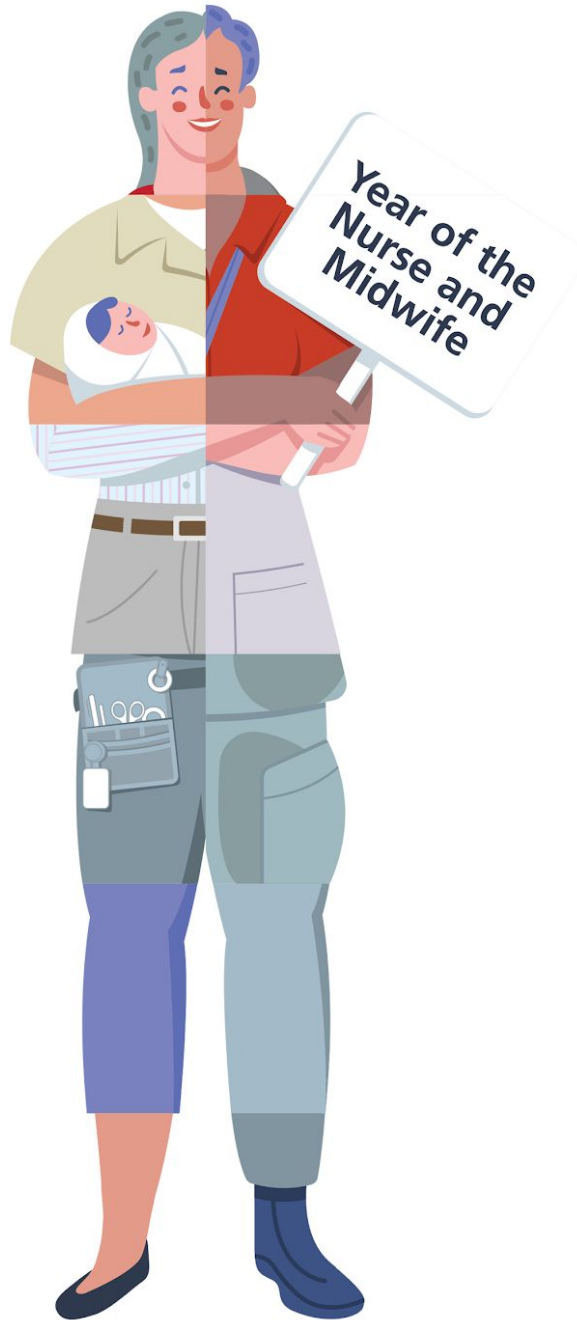
- Funding for new Birth Centers
- Improved reimbursement for high quality care
- Expanded options for VBAC
- Funding for education & loan repayment
- Pay equity
- Expand/preserve/defend scope of practice
- Revisions to the LM Drug Legend and Devices
- Midwifery Advisory Committee role
- Raise awareness about the benefits of midwifery care
- More employment opportunities for LMs
- Increased reimbursement
- And more...



SAVE *the* DATE

Thursday, March 16, 2023!

www.washingtonmidwives.org/lobbyday



Calls for Action

- Join us for Annual Midwife Lobby Day
Thursday, March 16, 2023
- Be on alert for updates re: federal bills including the Momnibus!
- Come Be a Part of Our Team - Weekly zoom!
info@washingtonmidwives.org



So Much Thanks to the Team!

Co-Chairs:

- Kristin Effland & Siri Larson Iverson

Awesome Legislative & Health Policy Team:

- Jen Segadelli (Former co-chair)
- Cynthia Flynn
- Deborah Gleisner
- Anna Humphreys
- Lynette Pettibone
- Julie Smith

Lobbyist:

- Amber Ulvenes

For more info: kristineffland@gmail.com



Image Credits:

- https://www.anmfsa.org.au/Web/Events/Year_of_the_Nurse_and_Midwife/Web/Campaigns/2020/2020-home.aspx?hkey=62d30a00-efd6-4ebf-a464-efd7361f6e52
- <https://www.needpix.com/photo/download/794304/breast-feeding-motherhood-mother-breast-milk-child-the-birth-of-love-a-small-child>
- <https://yourdaye.com/vitals/womens-health/pros-and-cons-of-contraception>
- <https://www.who.int/campaigns/year-of-the-nurse-and-the-midwife-2020>

