



# Families Deserve Timely Access to the Quality Care they Need

By: Midwives' Association of Washington State

# Reduce Barriers to Care & Equity

Help us Increase  
Preventative Care

# Increase Access

& options

**Planned community births meeting  
eligibility criteria in WA State**

**4.7% Cesarean Birth Rate**

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**85%**

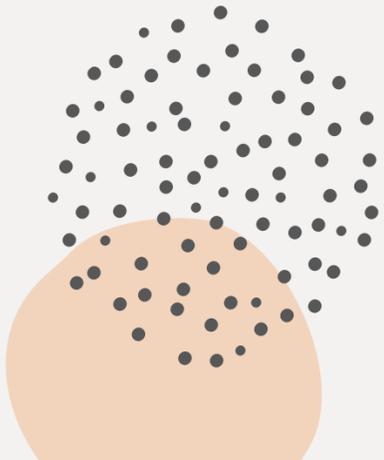
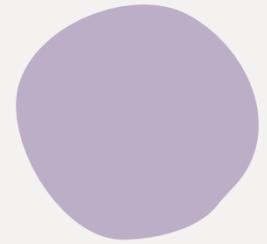
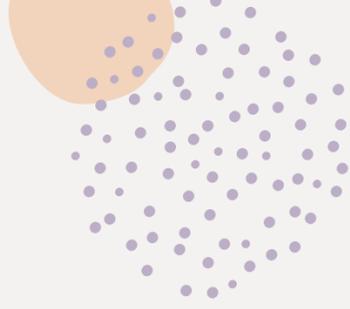
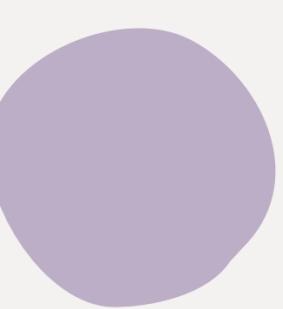
Physiologic  
Birth Rate

**93%**

Human Milk  
Feeding Rate

**Low rates of complications**

*(Obstetrics & Gynecology, 2021)*

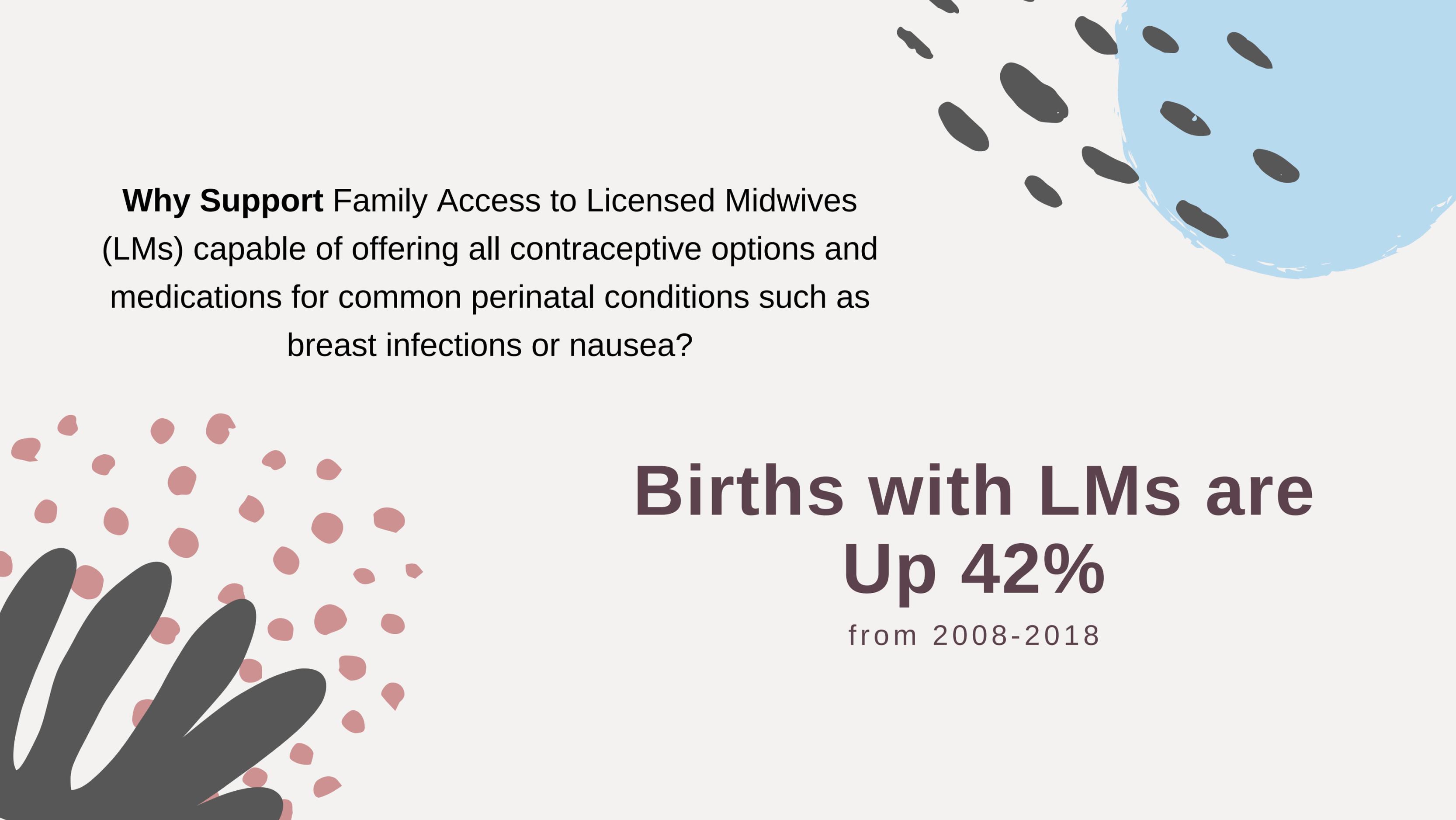


**Additional Training  
Options**

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**





**Why Support** Family Access to Licensed Midwives (LMs) capable of offering all contraceptive options and medications for common perinatal conditions such as breast infections or nausea?

**Births with LMs are  
Up 42%**  
from 2008-2018



**Reduce costs and  
barriers to care by**

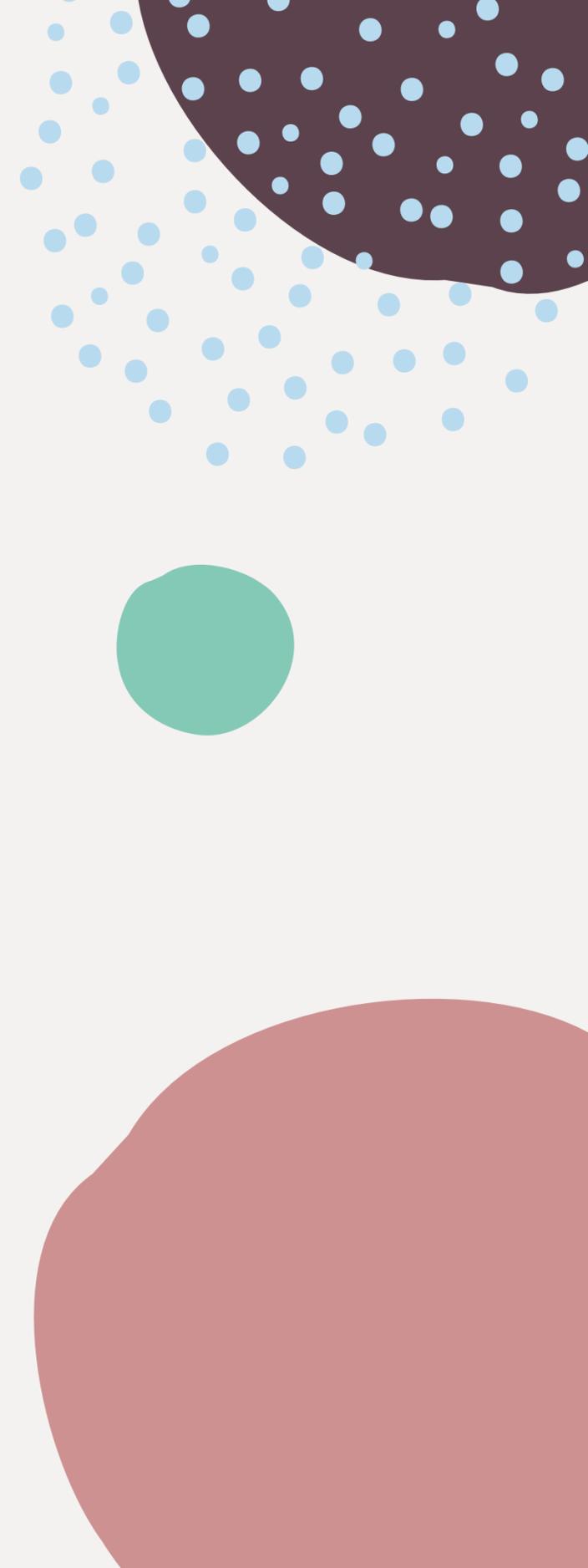
**Eliminating unnecessary  
additional visits with another  
provider**

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



# **ENSURE FAMILIES HAVE THE TOOLS TO PLAN THEIR FAMILY SIZE & SPACE THEIR PREGNANCIES**

When people must attend an additional visit for a contraceptive prescription or insertion they are more likely to use less effective methods or no method





# Additional Benefits

## **Preventative Practice**

Enables the prevention & efficient treatment of common conditions identified by midwives thereby decreasing morbidity associated with untreated mastitis, UTIs, STIs

## **Modernizes the Law**

Updates the arcane law that only enables clients to choose from diaphragms and cervical caps from their Licensed Midwife  
These contraceptive methods are rarely used in the United States and have much lower effectiveness than other more common, modern methods

## **Decrease Negative Impacts**

Needing to seek contraceptive care from a different provider than their midwife risks delay and loss to follow-up, and this loss to follow-up is significantly more likely to impact already vulnerable and marginalized populations

**WE WANT FAMILIES TO HAVE WHAT THEY NEED WHEN THEY LEAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THEIR LICENSED MIDWIFE**

Help us Remove current gaps to increase access & improve routine care

Families who choose midwives for their care, especially those living in underserved rural and urban shortage areas, benefit



# Why support these proposed changes to the law?

**Requires additional didactic and skills-based training for midwives who want to offer these services**

Other health professions employ this approach to practice updates

Consultation and referral will still be employed for refractory or complicated cases



# 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

**Up 50%**  
% of births occurring in  
**Freestanding Birth centers**  
in WA (2008-2018)

**Up 79%**  
% of births at Home '08-'18

## Improved perinatal outcomes

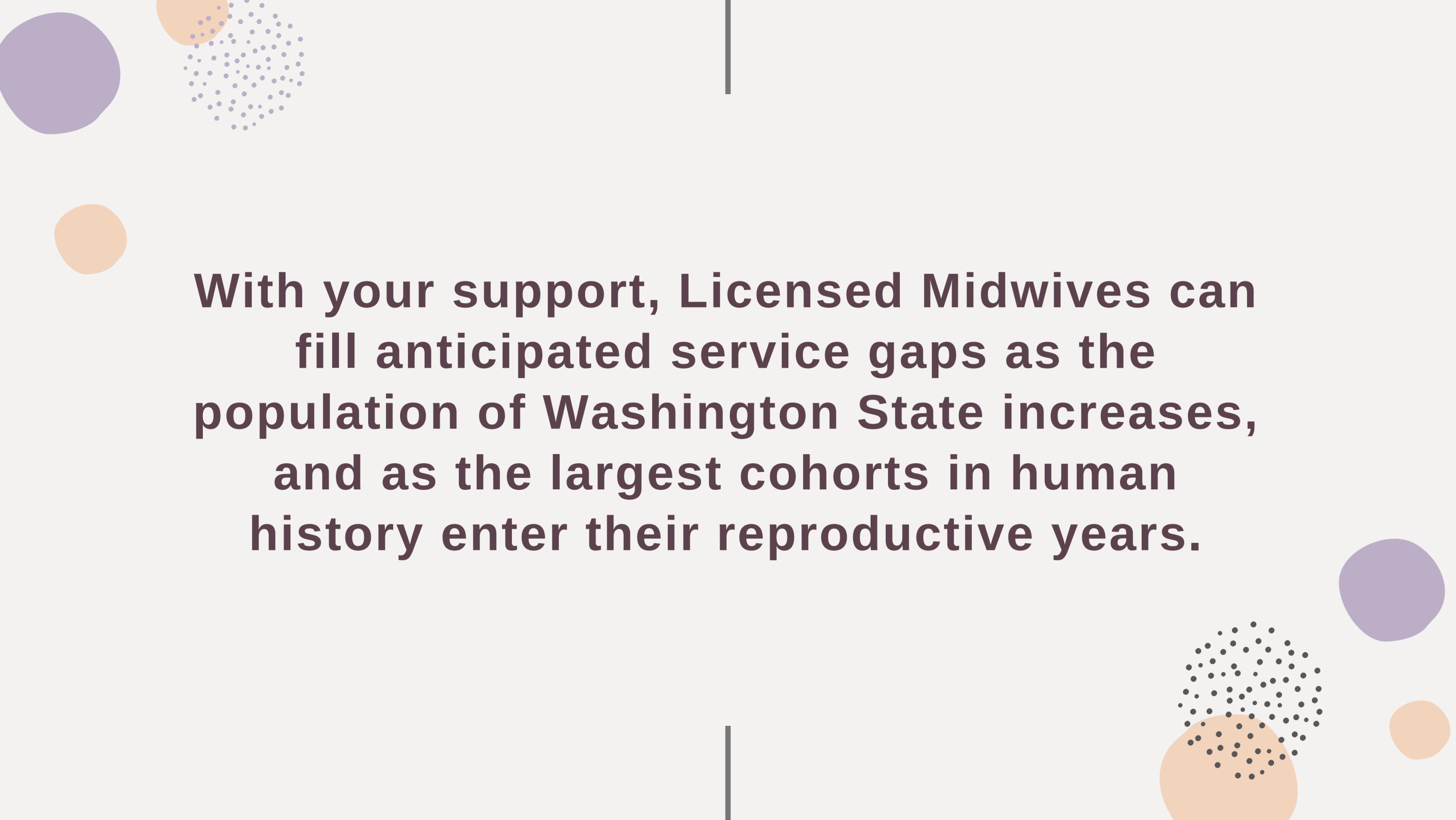
### Care Satisfaction

Lower intervention rates, increased time spent with clients, identity affirming and individualized care lead to increased satisfaction.

### Decreased Costs to Medicaid

Increased satisfaction with care has lead more people to seek routine reproductive care provided by Licensed Midwives.

## The Midwifery Model



**With your support, Licensed Midwives can fill anticipated service gaps as the population of Washington State increases, and as the largest cohorts in human history enter their reproductive years.**

# 2022 Legislative Agenda

- **Support SB 5765** to update the midwifery law to increase access & options to meet the needs of the childbearing population in WA State.
- We are grateful the cap on midwife professional licensing fees at \$525 is maintained through this biennium



# Other 2022 Bills MAWS Supports

## **SB 5702**

Insurance coverage of human breast milk from a milk bank while babies are hospitalized.

Many health benefits and long term savings to the healthcare system!

## **HB 1730/SB 5647**

Insurance Coverage of Fertility treatments for those who need them to become pregnant

## **HB 1651**

Allowing providers to bill separately for immediate postpartum contraception

Currently only covered at final postpartum visit

Access to Community Health Workers for relational health

Connecting families with social determinant of health needs to postpartum services

## **HB 1881**

Access to reimbursement for Doulas: Evidence-based care that improves outcomes!

## **HB 1947/SB 5838**

Providing a monthly diaper subsidy for families receiving TANF

Invest in Perinatal Support through the WA's Parent Support Warm Line so un- and underserved expectant & new parents have greater and more equitable access to mental health services

# We'd love your support!

## Contact Information

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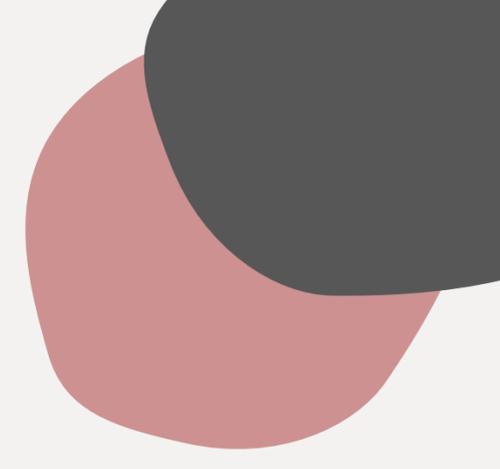
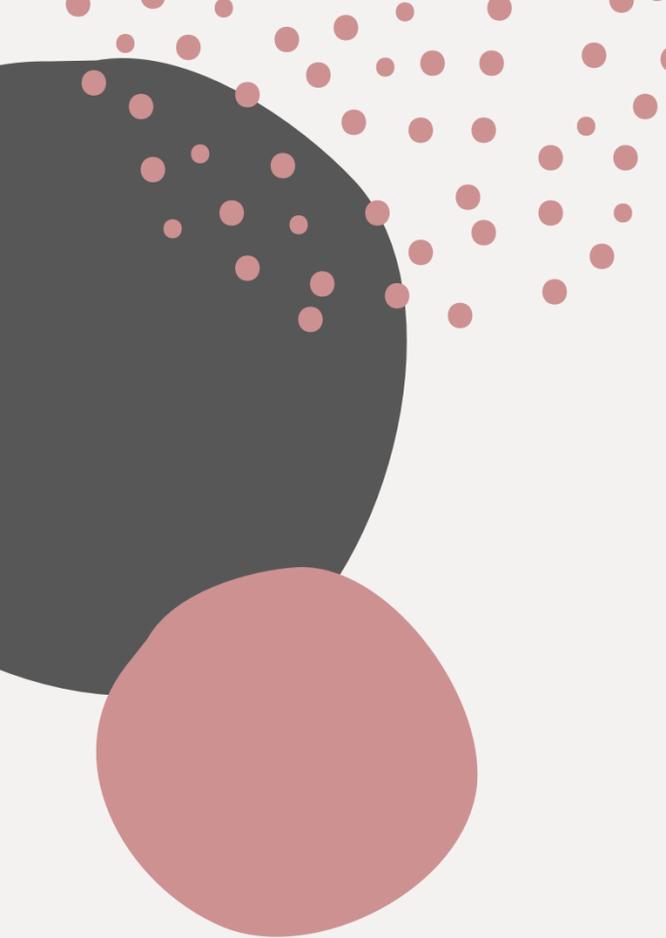
[www.washingtonmidwives.org](http://www.washingtonmidwives.org)

### Lobbyist

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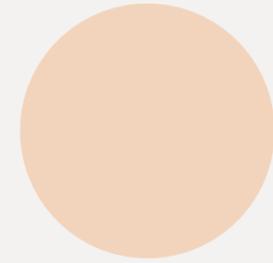
Photo Credit: Whitney Hardie Photography



# Acknowledgements



Gabriella Price, LM, CPM  
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all photos in this presentation are used with the  
consent of photographer and participants



MAWS Legislative/Policy Committee  
Content Editors

**In 2016, the Health Care Authority found**

**\$1.9 million**

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**in cost savings to Medicaid by Licensed Midwives...**

**ANNUALLY.**

**(These cost savings have likely only grown in the last 5 years based on similar data.)**