

Bill Testimony SB 6178:

Good morning Madame Chair and members of the committee, my name is Kristin Effland. I am a Licensed Midwife, a professor at Bastyr University & a consumer of midwifery living in the rural Wenatchee Valley. And, today I am speaking to you on behalf of the Midwives' Association of WA State and **in support of SB 6178**.

SB 6178 is a technical fix, changing only a few words, but it provides an important clarification to a law the legislature passed two years ago giving limited prescribing authority to licensed midwives.

Soon, Licensed Midwives who complete additional didactic and training requirements will be able to offer necessary prescriptive medications, including birth control, to their clients. The rule-writing for the bill has been collaborative—we have met with the medical commission, the Board of Nursing, the pharmacy commission, the Washington state medical Association and the department of health. During this process, it was discovered that an additional small change to statute would be needed.

While prescriptive authority is complete in the midwifery statute, we neglected to list licensed midwives as prescribers in the pharmacy statute. The bill before you provides that fix. It will also firmly resolve issues from the past which have included some pharmacists feeling unsure if they could dispense items such as prenatal vitamins when ordered by a licensed midwife despite these items being listed in the LM Drug Legend.

Thank you for your consideration. We ask that you please support this technical fix: SB 6178