

Why Is Midwife Lobby Day So Important?

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Why We Should Care...

Expanding:

- Protections for breastfeeding parents
- And preserving scope of practice
- Protections for working pregnant people

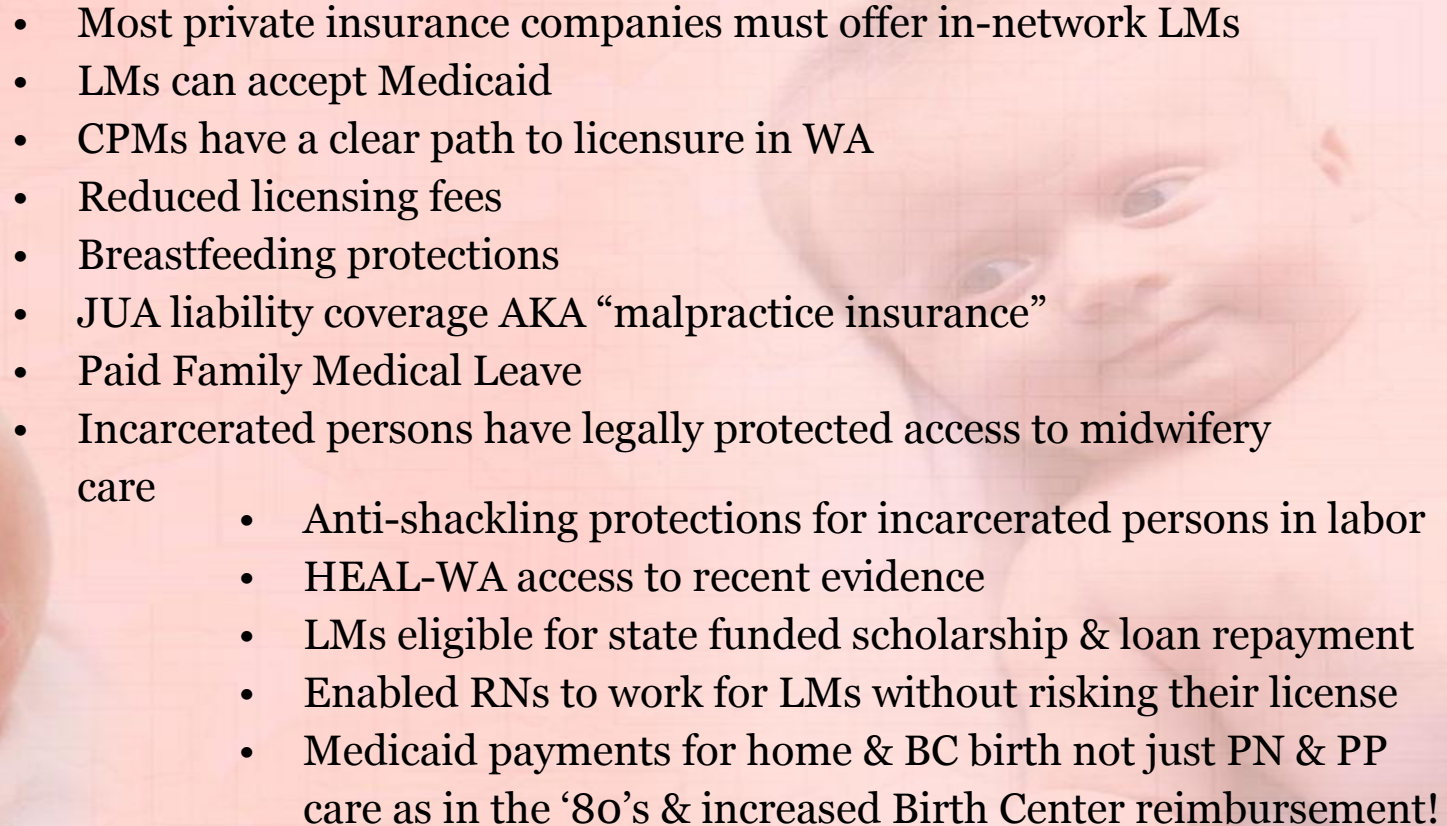
Increasing:

- Access to midwifery care especially in underserved areas
- Access to the profession
- Funding for new birth centers especially in underserved areas
- Funding for & access to scholarships and loan repayment for midwives including at the federal level

And More:

- Streamlining health insurance credentialing
- Managing the costs to practice

What has Lobbying Done for Me?

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- Most private insurance companies must offer in-network LMs
 - LMs can accept Medicaid
 - CPMs have a clear path to licensure in WA
 - Reduced licensing fees
 - Breastfeeding protections
 - JUA liability coverage AKA “malpractice insurance”
 - Paid Family Medical Leave
 - Incarcerated persons have legally protected access to midwifery care
 - Anti-shackling protections for incarcerated persons in labor
 - HEAL-WA access to recent evidence
 - LMs eligible for state funded scholarship & loan repayment
 - Enabled RNs to work for LMs without risking their license
 - Medicaid payments for home & BC birth not just PN & PP care as in the ‘80’s & increased Birth Center reimbursement!

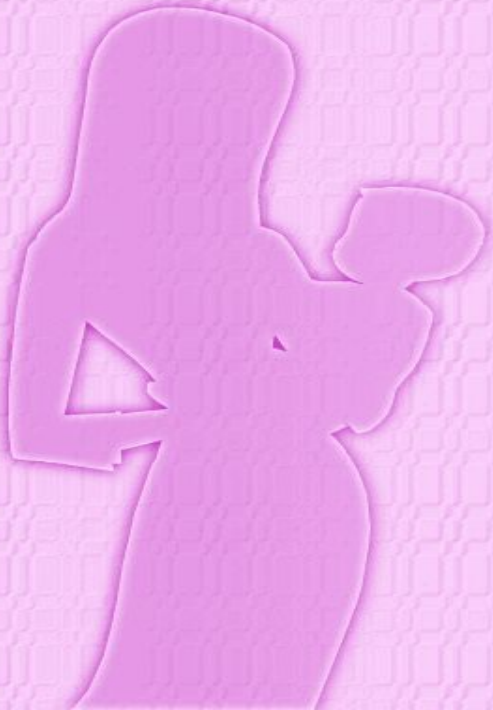


What potential influence can lobbying have?

- 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...

Why does a Legislator Want to Hear from You?

- Because you are not a professional lobbyist
- You have a personal message to share
- You put a face to the issues
- You are a constituent:
 - **Midwives:** You interact with dozens/hundreds of their constituents every year
 - **Families/Consumers:** You are the reason we are all here! Your perspective is invaluable
 - **Students/Apprentices:** You are the future! You might choose to practice elsewhere if unappealing here



Learning to Feel Comfortable: Getting Empowered to Educate your Representatives

- You don't need to know everything
- Focus on what you do know
- Embrace your **strength**: you are a constituent
- Communicate your personal message:
 - Let them know why you care & what is important to you
 - Don't worry about getting all the facts & figures straight
- You can always say "I don't know, but our lobbyist can be in touch and answer that question for you."



Tips when you're not sure what to say...

- Collect information
- “I can really understand why you would have that impression.”
- “Thank you for being a supporter of LMs/Midwifery in WA”
- “Do you have specific concerns or questions?”
- Tell your personal story
- Ask your Rep: “Can you tell me what you know about midwifery?”

