

To: Committee for Health and Human Services

Subject: House Bill 2088

My name is Michelle Ruebke and I serve on the board of the Kansas Midwives' Association. This organization is comprised of Certified Professional Midwives (CPM) who have been practicing in the state of Kansas for many years. CPMs receive their extensive training for the care of expectant mothers and newborn infants through various avenues including apprenticeships and programs in foreign countries where midwifery is the standard of care. As a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM), I am concerned with the health and well-being of mothers and infants in the state of Kansas.

My concern with HB2088 is not the intent but the current form. I would like to suggest that an amendment be adopted which would prevent the drawing in of those persons whom the bill does not intend to affect. Many people choose to have a birth utilizing professionals which are not outlined in this bill. I understand the goal of the current legislation is to preserve evidence in the event that a criminal investigation is required. I wonder if this goal could be achieved by putting stronger penalization into the already existing law requiring a death certificate for all babies born over a specified weight in grams. A death certificate must be signed by a physician and this would require the involvement of a health care professional as outlined in this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of an amendment that, again, would retain the purpose of this bill without infringing on the rights of parents to give birth with the assistance of health care professionals not currently identified in the bill.