

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2017-032

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE,  
4 AND LABOR STUDY THE NEED TO LIMIT NEW LICENSURE OF LAY MIDWIVES  
5 IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.  
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7 WHEREAS, licensed lay midwives, also known as "direct-entry midwives",  
8 are individuals who are licensed to perform for compensation skills relevant  
9 to the management of women in the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum  
10 period of the maternity cycle; and  
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12 WHEREAS, licensed lay midwives do not possess a nursing or other  
13 medical degree; and  
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15 WHEREAS, licensure of lay midwives or direct-entry midwives is  
16 available in approximately thirty-two (32) states, including Arkansas; and  
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18 WHEREAS, approximately eighteen (18) states, including Alabama,  
19 Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts,  
20 Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma,  
21 Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia  
22 do not license lay midwives or direct-entry midwives; and  
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24 WHEREAS, in Georgia, it is illegal to practice lay midwifery or direct-  
25 entry midwifery as no certification to practice is offered to practice  
26 midwifery; and  
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28 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, the legislature passed a resolution requiring the  
29 state auditor to conduct a sunrise analysis to determine if licensure of lay  
30 midwives or direct-entry midwives is warranted; and  
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32 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas should investigate the need for  
33 licensure of lay midwives or direct-entry midwives in the state as more and  
34 more babies are born in hospitals,  
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36 NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF  
2 THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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4 THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the  
5 need to limit new licensure of lay midwives or direct-entry midwives in the  
6 State of Arkansas.

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8 Respectfully submitted,

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12 Representative Deborah Ferguson

13 District 51

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16 By: JMB/JMB

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