

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-173

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3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND  
4 LABOR STUDY METHODS TO INCREASE HEALTHCARE CHOICES AND ACCESS TO  
5 MATERNITY, PRENATAL, POSTNATAL, AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE BY  
6 UTILIZING CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIVES.

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8 WHEREAS, a number of the citizens of this state struggle with obtaining  
9 maternity, prenatal, postnatal, and reproductive healthcare services; and

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11 WHEREAS, individuals, especially those residing in rural areas of the  
12 state, often drive hours to get to a healthcare provider who offers  
13 maternity, prenatal, postnatal, and reproductive healthcare services; and

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15 WHEREAS, certified nurse midwives are licensed by the Arkansas State  
16 Board of Nursing and are authorized under § 17-87-102 to perform nursing  
17 practices "that are relevant to the management of women's health care,  
18 focusing on pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period, care of the  
19 newborn, family planning, and gynecological needs of women within a  
20 healthcare system that provides for consultation, collaborative management,  
21 or referral as indicated by the health status of the client"; and

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23 WHEREAS, certified nurse midwives are often underutilized in helping to  
24 provide maternity, prenatal, postnatal, and reproductive healthcare services  
25 in this state; and

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27 WHEREAS, to increase healthcare provider choices and access to  
28 maternity, prenatal, postnatal, and reproductive healthcare services for the  
29 citizens of this state, the General Assembly should consider methods to  
30 properly utilize certified nurse midwives,

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32 NOW THEREFORE,

33 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF  
34 THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1            THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study  
2 methods to increase healthcare choices and access to maternity, prenatal,  
3 postnatal, and reproductive healthcare services for the citizens of this  
4 state by utilizing certified nurse midwives.  
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7 Respectfully submitted,  
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11 Representative Mary Bentley  
12 District 73  
13 Prepared by: JMB/JMB  
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