



California Families for Access to Midwives

CONTACT: Adeola Adeseun, Esq. (310) 702-4514, adeola@cafamiliesformidwives.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 28, 2013

“Free Our Midwives!” Rally to Raise Awareness about Overdue Reforms to California’s Midwife Law

Event Will Highlight the Racial, Economic, and Social Justice Impact of State’s Outdated Law

SACRAMENTO, CA (June 28, 2013)— California Families for Access to Midwives, a social justice organization dedicated to removing barriers that deny California citizens access to licensed midwife care, announced plans for a “Free Our Midwives!” rally at the Capitol on Monday, July 1, at 11:00 a.m. More than three hundred parents, babies, and midwife supporters will converge on the Capitol in support of efforts to remove from California law a repressive and outdated provision that is threatening the future of legal midwifery in California, and perpetuating racial and economic disparities in birth outcomes.

“Because of California’s outdated and paternalistic law requiring licensed midwives to practice under physician supervision, which imposes unnecessary liability burdens that almost no physicians are willing to accept, very few midwives are in compliance with the letter of this unworkable law,” said Adeola Adeseun, Esq., President of California Families for Access to Midwives. “As a result, California families are in jeopardy of losing virtually all out-of-hospital birth options unless the legislature intervenes.”

California’s physician supervision requirement also prevents Medi-Cal from reimbursing for licensed midwife care because licensed midwives cannot be recognized as independent providers. “The result is denying access for thousands of women across the state whose babies and families could benefit from a model of care with a proven track record of significantly reducing rates of low birth weight and pre-term births, which are two key areas of racial and economic disparities in birth outcomes.”

Research shows that babies born under the care of licensed midwives, who are specially trained to provide maternity care in out-of-hospital settings, have significantly reduced rates of prematurity and low-birth weight, which are critical to reducing racial and economic disparities in birth outcomes. In addition, licensed midwives are experts in prevention and wellness care, helping all women achieve healthy pregnancies.

The “Free Our Midwives!” rally will take place on the West side of the Capitol Building in Sacramento on Monday, July 1 at 11:00 am. Confirmed speakers include Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla (D-14th), author of AB1308. The general public and media are invited to attend.

###