

News from Idahoans for Midwives

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Idaho Midwives Bill Draws National Attention

Idaho Legislators Invited to Learn about National Licensing Trends and Qualifications of Certified Professional Midwives

WHAT: [Idahoans for Midwives](#) and the [Idaho Midwifery Council](#) have invited Idaho Legislators to kick off their 2009 session at a breakfast presentation. Topics presented are national licensing trends of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) across the nation and the particular needs in Idaho to ensure access to Licensed Midwives in our State.

WHY: The presentation explores the U.S. maternity care crisis, which sits atop the two crumbling pillars of affordability and birth outcomes. Legislators will learn more about the recent “D” grade that Idaho received from the March of Dimes for pre-term birth rates as well as the significant savings Idaho could achieve through licensing midwives. Lawmakers will have the opportunity to look at states like Washington that have saved millions of dollars by integrating licensed midwives into the state maternity care system. In addition, the training and qualifications of these nationally certified professional midwives will be examined.

WHO: Ida Darragh, CPM, Director of Testing for the [North American Registry of Midwives](#) (NARM), and Big Push for Midwives Campaign Advisory Committee member, is scheduled to be in Idaho this weekend to address Idaho Legislators and join consumers in meetings with their Representatives and Senators.

WHERE: The Rose Room, 718 W. Idaho Street, Boise, Idaho

WHEN: 9 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2009

Idaho is a priority of The Big Push for Midwives Campaign <<http://www.TheBigPushforMidwives.org>>, a nationally coordinated campaign to advocate for regulation and licensure of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and to push back against the attempts of the American Medical Association Scope of Practice Partnership to deny American families access to legal midwifery care. Through its work with state-level advocates, the Big Push is helping to build a new model of U.S. maternity care built on expanding access to out-of-hospital maternity care and CPMs, who provide affordable, quality, community-based care that is proven to reduce costly and preventable interventions as well as the rate of low-birth weight and premature births.

The Big Push Campaign Manager Katie Prown says, “The demand for safe and less-costly maternity care has been steadily increasing in recent years, as more people realize that we can no longer afford a system that produces inferior results at premium costs.”

Media inquiries about Idahoans for Midwives or the presentation to lawmakers should be directed to Michelle Bartlett at (208) 681-6114, mrbwith7@yahoo.com. Media inquiries about The Big Push for Midwives Campaign should be directed to Steff Hedenkamp at (816) 506-4630, Steff@TheBigPushForMidwives.org.

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