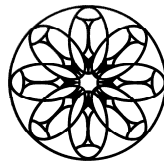


CALIFORNIA NURSE MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION



Representing Nurse Midwives dedicated to the delivery of quality health care for women, infants, and families in California

March 5, 2008

The Honorable Karen Bass
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Bass:

On behalf of the California Nurse Midwives Association, please accept our warmest congratulations on your election to the esteemed post of Assembly Speaker. It was our organization's distinct honor to recognize you as the 2007 CNMA Legislator of the Year last October in Berkeley, California. During your keynote remarks, it was evident that you are committed to improving the lives of California residents; particularly those experiencing health and economic disparity. Your vision for a system of health care able to address issues of health disparity among ethnic minorities resonates with the mission statement of CNMA.

Your election not only signifies the respect of your colleagues in the Capitol but more importantly conveys their confidence that you will continue to work for and with California citizens to improve their lives. As you embark on this groundbreaking adventure it will be our privilege to work with you on issues to improve access to health care for women and children in California and in so doing improve the health status of California's next generation.

California Nurse Midwives Association is the state organization that represents over 1500 certified nurse midwives practicing in California. As advanced practice nurses, we provide gynecological and obstetrical care for women in clinics, health centers, and private offices as well as having the privilege of delivering 8% of California's babies. The commitment of certified nurse midwives to serving vulnerable women and children is a strong thread of our presence in California health care history.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership to improve the health of women and children throughout our state. On behalf of the California Nurse Midwives Association, we look forward to collaborating with you as you continue to advocate for California's underserved.

Sincerely,

Ruth T. Mielke, CNM, MS
President, California Nurse Midwives Association
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