Insert Date

[insert name of Assemblymember/Senator]

[Insert address of your representative’s State Capitol office]

Re: AB-2682 (Burke) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember/Senator [insert name]:

I am a Registered Nurse (RN) in the state of California and I am writing to request your support for AB-2682 (Burke). Passage of AB-2682 will improve health outcomes for women and babies, increase access to high quality women’s health care, and permit women to choose for themselves their preferred reproductive health providers.

***California and the United States face an urgent maternity care crisis that we must immediately begin to remedy*.** There is now strong, mounting evidence that greater access to nurse-midwifery care is a critical strategy to curbing this crisis.

The maternal mortality rate in the United States ranks the worst among all developed countries and is still increasing.Even in California where we have bucked the national trend with maternal mortality, Black women still die at a rate 3 to 4 times that of White women.Cesarean section is now the most common hospital surgery, with roughly 33% women in California and the United States giving birth by major abdominal surgery.We know that potentially half of cesarean births may be unnecessary.These unnecessary procedures carry significant potential harm for mothers and babies, such as the step-wise increase in the risk of catastrophic hemorrhage with each subsequent cesarean.With 160,000 cesarean births in California each year, the cost adds up in both health care dollars spent and in lives permanently affected.

While there are many contributing factors to this absolute crisis, expanding and improving the maternity care workforce must be an essential strategy. In California, we currently face a severe shortage of obstetrician-gynecologists (OB GYNs). There are 9 California counties without an obstetricianand the Medical Board of California notes that nineteen California counties have five or fewer OB-GYNs. This scarcity of obstetricians is projected to worsen.

The safety and quality of midwifery care is indisputable.Nurse-midwives in the United States are among the most educated and experienced in the world, exceeding international standards for midwifery competencies and standards of practice.Midwifery care has be shown to *decrease the rates* of

* cesarean deliveries
* stillbirth and maternal mortality
* severe perineal trauma (birth trauma)
* severe blood loss
* preterm births
* newborns with low birthweight
* newborn admissions to neonatal intensive care units.

[optional: add few sentences about your experience with nurse-midwives in terms of quality and safety]

Help us serve our communities by supporting a strong partnership between obstetricians and nurse-midwives while simultaneously improving access to women’s health care. ***The health care needs in our state are too great to continue supporting antiquated policies that are not evidence-based.*** Our current maternity care crisis necessitates your immediate action.

Please vote yes on AB-2682.

Sincerely,

[sign name and type name and credentials below]