The Honorable Susan Bonilla

Chair of Business and Professions

State Capitol

Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB1612 (Burke): SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Bonilla:

I am a practicing physician in the state of California. I am an enthusiastic supporter of nurse-midwifery.

Nurse-midwives have a strong history of providing high quality care in collaboration with physicians. AB1612 does not change nurse-midwifery scope of practice. Midwifery is different than the practice of medicine; it simply does not make sense for physicians to supervise nurse-midwives. In the real world, we are each specialists who benefit from our partnerships and collaborations. Our shared patients benefit all the more.

ACOG has recognized a shortage of maternity care providers in California. In its Workforce document, ACOG identifies future initiatives for California and identifies, as its first priority, the promotion of collaborative relationships with nurse midwives (listed first among other allied health professionals) to solve critical gaps in healthcare.

As California searches for solutions to reverse the tide of rising cesarean rates and inadequate access to women's health providers, nurse midwives are an obvious part of the solution.

I strongly support AB1612.

Please support the growth of physician-nurse midwifery partnerships, so that we can serve our communities to the maximum potential of our unique respective qualifications.

Sincerely,

cc: Allison Ruff, Allison.Ruff@asm.ca.gov

LeOndra Clark Harvey, leondra.clarkharvey@asm.ca.gov