Date

Assemblymember/Senator \_\_\_ [insert name]

Insert address of representative’s State Capitol office

Re: AB 2682 (Burke) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember/Senator\_\_\_\_\_\_: [insert name]

[Organization name] supports AB 2682, which would promote greater access to women’s health care. California and the United States face an urgent maternity workforce crisis that significantly curbs a woman’s ability to access safe health care, including family planning and care during labor and birth. We can no longer waste time, as this crisis has been years in the making. Nine California counties have NO practicing obstetrician and 19 counties have 5 or fewer obstetricians. There is now strong, mounting evidence that greater access to nurse-midwifery care is a critical strategy to curbing this crisis.

In California, nurse-midwives attend approximately 11% of the vaginal births, with 95% of all CNM-attended births taking place in a hospital setting.The evidence for improved outcomes and improved satisfaction with midwifery care is incontrovertible.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.

Currently access to nurse-midwives is limited by antiquated physician supervision requirements. “Supervision” of nurse-midwives in California occurs in name only but not in practice. ***The law thereby tethers CNMs geographically and economically to where obstetricians already practice, without providing any actual oversight****.* This significantly restricts access to women’s health care without showing any benefit to patient safety, especially in rural and health practitioner shortage areas. Currently, ***California is one of only five states that still requires physician supervision.***

AB 2682 would directly and positively affect the California health care system by providing for improved physician and nurse-midwife collaboration, improved access to health services, lower health care costs, improved quality of care, and greater innovation in health care delivery.

For these reasons, [Organization name] supports AB 2682 and urges your “aye” vote.

 Sincerely,

[sign name here]

[type name and position in organization here]

cc: Assemblymember Autumn Burke