

This is a template outreach email for MD support. Please change and modify as you see fit. This email would be sent with the Sample MD Letter of Support and the Fact Sheets as attachments

Dear Dr. _____

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that the California Nurse-Midwives Association and Black Women for Wellness Action Project are co-sponsoring [SB1237](#), the Justice and Equity in Maternity Care Act (Dodd/Burke). For more information, see the press release [here](#) and [video here](#). This bill will remove the barrier of physician permission to practice for nurse-midwives in California. *SB 1237 also strengthens safety and team-based care by defining consultation, co-management, referral and transfer of care and adding specific language to ensure collaboration.*

Currently there is a growing crisis in maternity care. There are unacceptable disparities in maternal outcomes. As you know, black and indigenous women die due to pregnancy-related causes at 3 to 4 times the rate of white women. Their babies also die at a much higher rate. At the same time, there is a lack of adequate access to maternal health care providers, you are probably aware of the shortage of obstetricians that has been noted as “critical” for some counties by 2025. For more information, please read the summary of the report from the [California Legislative Analyst's Office](#) on supervision of nurse-midwives in CA, released on March 11, 2020. *They clearly state that supervision does not improve safety and quality, and that removing supervision may increase access to care and reduce costs.*

I would be very grateful if you would sign the attached letter of support (and forward to other MDs you believe would also support improving access to high-value, high-quality maternity care in California). **Please feel free to use the template letter and individualize for yourself as you see fit.** I am so grateful for your commitment to improving the maternal health for the individuals and families of California. As a colleague I thank you for the collaboration and patient-centered care that continues to be our shared vision for patients.

TIMELINE: As you probably know, due to the COVID-19 virus, the California State Legislature is in recess until at least April 13. Given this, we are unable to say when our bill will be heard in Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development (we were originally set for March 30). We are nonetheless asking our supporters to submit a letter as soon as they have a spare moment, so that we are prepared as soon as the Legislature returns. **Instructions are included on the template letter.**

Sincerely,
