



WHAT DOES SB238 DO?

- **SB238** will license Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) to attend out-of-hospital births as autonomous primary care providers.
- **SB238** will create a State Board of Midwifery to administer licensure of CPMs, providing regulatory oversight and professional accountability.
- **SB238** will authorize the State Board of Midwifery to establish rules under which CPMs may practice, including allowable scope of practice and prohibited procedures.
- **SB238** will authorize the State Board of Midwifery to establish procedures for investigating and disciplining CPMs.
- **SB238** will authorize the State Board of Midwifery to determine minimum educational requirements for CPMs to obtain licensure.
- **SB238** will ensure the midwife informs her clients of the public health requirements for eye ointment, newborn health screening and birth certificates.
- **SB238** will exempt doctors, nurses and other health care providers from liability for the actions of a CPM.
- **SB238** has the potential to improve health care measures such as low birth weight and prematurity, while saving the state money.

WHY IS SB238 SO DESPERATELY NEEDED?

- In the latest survey of birth data by the CDC, out-of-hospital birth increased nationwide at a rate of 5%, yet Alabama's out-of-hospital birth rate increased by over 18%.
- Women will continue to choose to give birth in out-of-hospital settings for cultural, religious and personal reasons. We must allow professionals trained to provide care in this setting to attend them.
- CPMs are specifically trained to provide care out-of-hospital. Further, Certified Nurse Midwives are prohibited by Alabama law from attending out-of-hospital birth.