
From: Helen Piecora <alyonakuch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 1:24 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Subject: Please support Carolina Moms!

Dear Nikki Hailey,

My name is Yelena Piecora. I am a NC resident but traveled to Fort Mill, SC so that I could have the safe delivery and wonderful experience that I was able to have at a birth center . The day my son was born almost 2 years ago was the best day of my life and I will forever be thankful that SC has this option. Sadly NC does not have this option and I hope that you will help to keep birth centers open in your state for the sake of thousands of moms in NC and SC. I delivered at and strongly support Carolina Community Maternity Center and their midwives. CCMC is located in Fort Mill, SC. At the end of this week, CCMC will be forced to close its doors due to the recent withdrawal of their DHEC-mandated consulting OBGYN and there will be 88 vulnerable, pregnant women left without a care provider. I can't imagine what I would have done if I was in their shoes 2 years ago. This is unnecessary stress that no mother to be should have to endure on behalf of politics.

Yesterday's resignation of DHEC Director Nominee Eleanor Kitzman and the quick turnover of their Directors in the past few years has given me little faith in DHEC's ability to handle this matter. There IS something you can do! In 2012, NC Governor Bev Purdue and the Midwifery Joint Committee of NC gave 7 midwives a 75 day grace period when the supervising physician they were required by law to have suddenly made himself unavailable. We now find ourselves in a similar situation and are asking that you grant our midwives a 90 day reprieve so that they are not forced to abandon their current patients.

Many local OBGYN practices will not accept new patients into their care once they are past 28 weeks and many family doctors will not care for pregnant patients past the first trimester. The women who planned to give birth at CCMC who are already at or past 28 weeks are at risk of being left without a care provider or any sense of safety or security. Imagine if this was you/your daughter/wife/sister/friend. We are also expecting a birth center bill to be introduced to the State House very shortly, which we would love if you would support but without this 90-day reprieve, it will mean nothing to CCMC.

Thank you for your time and please, do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Yelena Piecora