



*Nevada State Legislature, 82nd Session:
Testimony in opposition to Assembly Bill 179*

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

To the Chair and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

We at the Libertarian Party of Nevada write to you in opposition to AB179. The proposed collaborative is unnecessary and threatens to place an unwanted regulatory burden upon midwifery and mothers in our state.

There are already several state entities with a mandate to investigate infant and maternal mortality, as well as universities and hospitals which are capable of studying these issues from an academic standpoint in order to further our understanding and develop best practices. It is not necessary to create a new entity for this purpose and to provide it with access to private health information of Nevadans, an unclear degree of authority, and an exemption to open meeting requirements.

Childbirth is a deeply personal experience, and every mother should have the right and opportunity to seek the care and provider best suited to her needs. Women who seek out midwifery services or choose to have their prenatal care and birth outside the traditional hospital setting do so for myriad reasons, and it is not reasonable or desirable to artificially limit their alternatives. Their choices need to be respected.

Establishing an oversight board is a first step towards enacting policies or placing requirements on practitioners that will reduce options, raise costs, and harm women who seek an alternative approach to birth. We urge you to reject this proposal and vote NO on AB179.

Thank you for your consideration.