

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 139**

2 (By Delegates Perdue, Fleischauer, Lawrence, Barker, Moore,
3 Staggers, Campbell, Guthrie, Marshall, Poore, Kinsey, Ellington,
4 Householder, Sobonya, Rowan, Arvon and Border)

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6 [Originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources;
7 Reported March 7, 2014]

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10 Requesting that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to
11 study the benefits of recognizing Certified Professional
12 Midwives in the State of West Virginia.

13 *WHEREAS*, the Certified Professional Midwife Credential is
14 approved by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA),
15 an accrediting body that accredits many healthcare credentials,
16 including the Certified Nurse-Midwife and is currently recognized
17 in 28 states; and

18 *WHEREAS*, Home births have increased 29% from 2004-2009 (CDC)
19 and quality studies have found that birth can safely take place
20 with Certified Professional Midwives at home and in birthing
21 centers (See Homebirth, An Annotated Guide to the Literature
22 [http://midwifery.ubc.ca/files/2013/11/HomeBirth_AnnotatedGuideToT](http://midwifery.ubc.ca/files/2013/11/HomeBirth_AnnotatedGuideToTheLiterature.pdf)
23 heLiterature.pdf and the recent study, "Outcomes of care for 16,924
24 Planned Home Births in the United States: The Midwives Alliance of

1 North America Statistics Project from 2004-2009"
2 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jmwh.12172/abstract>);
3 and

4 *WHEREAS*, West Virginia is a state where most of the maternal
5 and infant health indicators, including obesity, smoking and
6 substance abuse, are preventable through appropriate counseling
7 made more effective by building strong relationships. Such
8 counseling and the relationship building are cornerstones of
9 midwifery care; and

10 *WHEREAS*, births attended by Certified Professional Midwives
11 need fewer interventions and thus result in great cost savings to
12 the state; therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

14 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance be
15 authorized to authorize a study the benefit of recognizing
16 Certified Professional Midwives in West Virginia; and, be it

17 Further Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Government and
18 Finance report to the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature on
19 its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts
20 of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations;
21 and, be it

22 Further Resolved, That the expenses necessary to conduct this
23 study, to prepare all reports and draft legislation be paid from
24 the legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on Government

1 and Finance.