

## **WHY WE NEED CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIVES**

### **Maternity Care is a Key Driver of Healthcare Costs**

- Childbirth is the #1 reason for hospitalization in the U.S.
- 23% of all hospital discharges are related to childbearing, accounting for \$110 billion health care dollars
- 48 percent of births in the U.S. were paid for by Medicaid in 2010, up from 40 percent of births in 2008

### **Childbirth in the U.S.: Dominated by Costly Interventions ~ Need for Quality Improvement**

- 31.9% of all births in 2016 are by cesarean section; 23.3% of births are medically induced
- High mortality rates – U.S. is 37<sup>th</sup> in world rankings for neonates, 50<sup>th</sup> in the world for mothers

### **National physician shortage predictions are acute for the maternity care workforce**

- Number of births projected to rise from 2010 level of 4.3 million to 5.7 million in 2050
- Anticipated shortage of OB/GYNs will be 18% (9,000) by 2030 and 25% (15,000) by 2050 based on years of post-residency practice, with a distinct trend to increasingly fewer post-residency practice years

### **Rural Access to OB providers is especially lacking**

- 49% of U.S. counties, representing 9.5 million people, had not a single OB/GYN in 2011
- The number of OB/GYNs per 10,000 women drops from 2.9 in cities to 1.7 in smaller cities, to 0.7 in rural counties

### **Patient Choice of a Certified Professional Midwife = Greater Access, Lower Cost, Better Outcomes**

- Non-physician providers, including midwives, are helping to address the workforce shortage
- Community-based providers, such as Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs), are needed to provide care in rural & underserved areas
- Washington State data found the care of CPMs resulted in fewer low-birth-weight babies, many fewer cesarean sections, and similar rates of infant mortality when compared to low-risk hospital births, while delivering substantial savings to the state budget
- Countries with the lowest infant mortality (and lower costs) rely on midwives as the primary maternity care providers for the majority of childbearing people.
- Childbearing people in the care of CPMs experience a 5.2% cesarean section rate, compared to at least a 20% rate for healthy low-risk people in the hospital which increases costs without improving outcomes.

### **Solution: License Certified Professional Midwives**

- CPMs are licensed in 31 states and the number is growing.
- The CPM is a credential administered by the North American Registry of Midwives and accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.
- Relying on the national credentialing agency to set standards and administer examinations saves states money and provides assurance that midwives have met national psychometrically sound standards.