

**THE MASSACHUSETTS AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE
MIDWIVES (ACNM) IN SUPPORT OF
H. 3320: *An Act removing obstacles and expanding access to women's reproductive health*
S. 1209: *An Act to remove obstacles and expand abortion access***

Certified Nurse Midwives work in over 30 practices in Massachusetts and are the primary OB-GYN providers in many of the state's community health centers. We know firsthand how essential access to safe, legal abortion is. On the national stage, we are watching an attack on women's health and the erosion of reproductive freedom unlike anything before. And even here in our home state, despite the Commonwealth's leadership in health care, insurance coverage, and equality, there are still too many barriers to abortion.

As front-line reproductive health providers, many of us have sat in the office with women who are struggling not just with the decision to have an abortion, but how they can get a day off work or pay for childcare during their procedure. Or have counseled couples who have received devastating diagnoses late in their second trimester. Or have sat with teenagers facing the onerous judicial bypass process. The ROE Act ensures that all people—regardless of age, racial or ethnic background, immigration status or income-- will still be protected without delaying their reproductive care or causing them to leave the state to receive it.

We, the Massachusetts Affiliate of the ACNM, have a responsibility to speak out for accessible, compassionate abortion services, and the Commonwealth has a responsibility to ensure all people can make their own health care decisions and access timely care. The ROE Act will affirm the Commonwealth's commitment to individual rights and reproductive freedom.