

NEWS FROM
STATE SENATOR

Barry Keene

REPRESENTING DEL NORTE, HUMBOLDT, LAKE, MARIN, MENDOCINO AND SONOMA COUNTIES

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SUBJECT: Midwifery

KEENE TO LICENSE MIDWIVES

A new category of health professionals known as "certified midwives" would be licensed under SB 670, introduced today by state Senator Barry Keene.

"This legislation is aimed at protecting patients--and making health care more available to pregnant women--by requiring midwives to be trained thoroughly and licensed by the Board of Registered Nursing," said Keene (D-Mendocino).

"Because there has been a continuing demand for midwives, between 500-600 of them are now practicing in the state illegally," Keene added.

Keene's bill would require that midwives complete a rigorous training program to include academic studies and clinical experience approved by an 11-member midwifery examining committee appointed by the Governor, the Senate and the Assembly. Midwives certified in other states and nations could become eligible for California licenses under certain conditions, but all candidates must pass a California examination.

The 170 state-certified nurse-midwives (registered nurses with advanced training in prenatal care and childbirth) would be licensed automatically under the new procedures.

"The purpose of this bill is to establish a partnership between midwives and physicians, similar to the one that works very successfully in other countries. I might add that many of these other countries--

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