

**Here's what you need to know to have your written testimony included in the hearing's evidence:**

1. Written testimony is in the form of letters, mailed, hand-delivered or faxed before the hearing (*no emails or phone calls can be included in the evidence*). There are three bills, listed below; each bill gets its own letter of support.

2. Letters must be addressed to The Honorable Tim Gay, Chairperson, Health and Human Services Committee, The Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, Room 1402, P.O. Box 94604, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509. The fax number is 402-479-0914. The salutation is: *Dear Chairperson Gay*.

3. Clearly identify the bill you are writing about 1) on the envelope or fax cover sheet, 2) in a subject line and 3) in the body of the letter. You must request that your letter be included in the hearing testimony for that bill.

**LB 406** adds Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) to the list of providers that can't be denied hospital privileges based on their credential type.

**LB 457** removes the requirement for a written practice agreement with a physician. These practice agreements have never been shown to improve patient outcomes, only to restrict midwives' practice. Passage of this bill would allow more CNMs to open practices in Nebraska, and would allow CNMs to open freestanding birth centers.

**LB 481** strikes the restriction on CNMs attending home births. Nebraska is one of only two states that restricts CNMs from attending home births.

4. State what you want done. You are asking the committee to vote to advance this bill to the full Legislature for debate and voting.

5. Use a clear, business-like tone, but make your letter personal by using your own words and including a sentence or two about your experience with midwives or homebirth. For example, if you live in a rural area, mention that these bills will increase your access to care. The story of Gail Consoli's birth center could be used to clearly illustrate the need for LB 457. If you have traveled to another state for an out-of-hospital birth, mention this in support of LB 457 and 481. In addition to (or instead of) personal experiences, you can include statistics and references to studies in your letter.

6. State that you want your letter added to the written testimony.

7. If you have time to hand write the letters, it adds a nice personal touch. Either way, make sure to personally sign the letters!

8. Ask your friends, families, neighbors and colleagues to write letters, too.

9. After you write and send your letter, please report it to Diane at [joyfuldi@msn.com](mailto:joyfuldi@msn.com).