

## **SB 1 Midwife Modernization Background and Arguments for Support/Opposition**

Gaps in maternal health care are one of the most concerning issues for young families. There has been a significant shortage of physicians choosing to be generalist OB-GYNs. There are numerous counties throughout Pennsylvania who have no obstetricians or licensed midwives, and struggle to recruit and retain them.

### **Supportive Arguments**

- Passage of this legislation would result in expanded access to maternal health care
  - Better to have someone who has some specialized education to deliver a baby than someone with no specialized education
  - Improved health care outcomes for mothers and their babies
- More personalized attention and care as midwives can spend more time with their patients than OB-GYNs

### **Opposition Arguments**

- Concerns over the amount of education required for any midwife, as an OB-GYNs post-secondary education is about 12 years (undergraduate, medical school, residency and option fellowship to subspecialize)
  - According to the National Institute of Health, 15% of all births end up in emergency cesarians, which midwives cannot perform
- Concerns over certified midwives not having a nursing education and degree, and no specification as to what type of bachelor's degree they must hold
- The need for any midwife to prescribe drugs relating to opioid use disorder and perform assessments of methadone treatment evaluations
- Should Lay (Amish) Midwives be able to practice without being licensed/regulated