



Educating the public to improve
maternity care for all women

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The American Public Health Association Passes Resolution Supporting
Out-of-Hospital Birth and Direct Entry Midwives**

BirthNet welcomes the passage of a resolution by the American Public Health Association (APHA) supporting out-of-hospital maternity care. Out-of-hospital maternity care encompasses both freestanding birth centers and home birth. We agree with the Association's determination that out-of-hospital birth is a safe option for the majority of mothers who are healthy and low-risk.

The resolution, entitled "Increasing Access to Out-Of-Hospital Maternity Care Services Through State-Regulated and Nationally-Certified Direct-Entry Midwives," was adopted at the Association's annual convention on October 24, 2001. This resolution also encourages the development of guidelines for licensing direct-entry midwives by state agencies, and the removal of barriers to reimbursement and equitable payment of direct-entry midwives by health insurers.

A similar resolution adopted at last year's convention supports the expansion of and access to midwifery care to increase health care options for childbearing families and improve birth outcomes.

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, representing more than 50,000 members from over 50 occupations of public health. The text of this resolution can be obtained by contacting the American Public Health Association at (202) 777-2435 or media.relations@apha.org.

BirthNet educates the public about maternity care in order to improve it. We believe that birth is a normal, natural event in a woman's life; and we encourage women to learn about their rights and options. BirthNet coordinates events bringing together professionals, such as midwives, doulas, and childbirth educators, with various communities. Our primary programs include education in the classroom (high school or college classes), community forums or workshops, and media outreach. For more information about BirthNet, please contact Carolyn Keefe 518-482-2504.
