



International  
Confederation  
of Midwives

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

The Hague , 11 July, 2018

**Mr. Sebastián Piñera Echenique**  
**President of the Republic**  
**Chile**

Dear Mr. President,

I write to you to give greetings from the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) and its 500,000 members who serve the needs of families around the world – not least of all in your beautiful country of Chile.

Mr. President, your commitment to the development of rights for women and children during your presidential term is known. For this reason, I ask for your intervention in the recent decision by the State Audit Institution to change the scope of midwifery provision and how it is delivered in the future.

Chile has a 184-year history of education and scope of practice of midwives. Midwives are an educated and autonomous health professional with the vital skills to support women through pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Evidence shows that midwives who work in an enabling environment – that is, one in which they are able to work within a clear scope of practise, with the necessary resources and support – significantly reduces maternal and newborn mortality rates, reduces emergency health expenses and generates a sixteenfold return on investment. Consequently, midwives yield the highest return on investment of any health professional classification.

Because the return on investment in midwives is so beneficial to the national economy, there is a clear financial case to be made for protecting their scope of practise. However, the new changes made by the State Audit Institution may compromise this yield. Midwifery is a specialist profession, and its very specific set of competencies require rigorous education and training to manage appropriately. If these responsibilities are subsumed by other health professionals, lives may be jeopardised and Chile's commendable progress towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals may be hindered.

We at the International Confederation of Midwives, in conjunction with your dynamic and devoted Chilean Midwives Association, write to you to implore you to repeal this decision so that midwives can continue to contribute to their utmost to Chile's health, wellbeing and economy.

I thank you for your bold leadership towards ensuring that every woman, child and family receives the highest quality of care they both need and deserve, and look forward to a continuing dialogue with you on this important issue.

With best wishes,

Franka Cadée  
President

