



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Loudon
7th Senate District

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Advocates Join Sen. John Loudon to Support Midwives

Loudon's bill legalizes the practice of midwifery in Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, today was joined by approximately 30 pregnant women, who had descended upon the Capitol to urge lawmakers to approve Loudon's measure supporting home births. Missouri is the only state in which the practice of midwifery is a felony.

Among the attendees was Laura Anne Schwarb, who came with her husband, Alan, and their four children. The Schwarbs had home births in Florida and Virginia before moving to Missouri. They were stunned to learn that midwifery is not an option in Missouri.

"I find it embarrassing having to tell people why we live in a state with such a backwards mentality," Loudon said. "Thirty-nine other states and most of the free world value the practice of midwifery."

Loudon's legislation, Senate Bill 303, legalizes the practice of midwifery in Missouri, which has one of the most restrictive laws in the nation. The measure establishes a board for licensing Certified Professional Midwives (CPM). The CPM credential is recognized internationally and in approximately half of the United States. SB 303 has been approved by the Senate Pensions, Veterans' Affairs and General Laws Committee and awaits debate by the full body.

The Loudons had their four children in hospitals, but support the right to have home births.

"The choice to have a baby at home should be a fundamental freedom," Loudon said. "Current law discriminates against midwives and does not recognize their important role in childbearing. These qualified individuals should not be prohibited from providing such a valuable service."

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