



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics  
W. LeRoy Heinrichs, M.D., Ph.D.  
Professor and Chairman

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August 1, 1977

Art Torres  
5261 E. Beverly Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Mr. Torres:

I have just become aware a few minutes prior to leaving on vacation of the fact sheet for bill AB 1896 which is being distributed by the Department of Consumer Affairs. The outcome of passage of bill AB 1896 would be a significant increase in perinatal morbidity and mortality and maternal morbidity and mortality in this state. It is already possible to document deaths of babies resulting from neglected obstetrical care at the hands of lay midwives, including some purported to have training in midwifery in other national jurisdictions. If we want an increase in cerebral palsy, mental retardation, extended hospitalizations for mothers undergoing infections, fistulas, hemorrhages, and other severe and disabling results of neglected childbirth, only then could one endorse bill AB 1896. The claim of the financial benefits for Medi-Cal represents a wild speculation inconsistent with the great health care needs of a socially disadvantaged population that is covered by Medi-Cal. I strongly advocate in the interest of the present generation of mothers and the next generation of children that bill AB 1896 be voted down.

Sincerely,

*W. L. Heinrichs, M.D./rs*

W. LeRoy Heinrichs, M.D., Ph.D.

WLH:rs

Dictated by Dr. Heinrichs, but signed in his absence.