

Dear (STATE REPRESENTATIVE NAME) and (STATE SENATOR NAME),

I am a constituent in your district writing about the closure of New Birth Company birth center as of September 1, 2024. There will now be no licensed birth centers in the Kansas City metro. The closest will be in Topeka. This closure is devastating for Kansas families and harms the KanCare Members seeking respectful maternity care.

(INSERT PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH NEW BIRTH COMPANY, WHAT THE BIRTH CENTER MEANS TO YOU, HOW ITS CLOSURE MAY IMPACT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY)

I am asking for your special assistance with the following.

1. Call on Christine Osterlund, KanCare Medicaid Director and the KDHE maternal child task force to bring attention to this tragic situation and [request KanCare apply for the CMS/CMMI Transforming Maternal Health funding](#) that will support utilization of Midwives and Birth Centers. The letter of intent to apply is due August 8th, 2024.
2. Request that KanCare utilize its Rate Study review process to prioritize raising the reimbursement for birth center facility services immediately. \$1295 does not cover the cost of birth center expenses including nurse salaries and the building. \$1295 is what Doulas are paid as of July 1, 2024.
3. Use your creativity and relationships at the state and federal level to support this Midwife Led Birth Center as it seeks a future partnership with a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The Birth Center + FQHC or Rural Health Center or Critical Access Hospitals could be replicated across Kansas. Please contact Kendra Wyatt at 816-210-8964 or email at kendra@newbirthcompany.com .

I look forward to hearing from you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

(YOUR NAME)

(YOUR ADDRESS)