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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### AB 836 (Stefani) - Midwifery Workforce Training Act

**Version:** June 23, 2025

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 18, 2025

**Policy Vote:** HEALTH 10 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Agnes Lee

**Bill Summary:** AB 836 would require the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to administer funding for a statewide study on midwifery education, as specified.

**Fiscal Impact:** The HCAI estimates General Fund costs of approximately \$1 million in 2026-27 to contract with a consultant to develop the workforce study.

**Background:** Current law requires HCAI, as part of the Midwifery Workforce Training Act, to establish a program to contract with programs that train certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and licensed midwives in accordance with the global standards for midwifery education and the international definition of “midwife” as established by the International Confederation of Midwives, in order to increase the number of students receiving quality education and training as a CNM or as a licensed midwife. Current law requires HCAI to only contract with programs that train CNMs and programs that train licensed midwives that, at a minimum, include, or that intend to create, a component of training designed for medically underserved multicultural communities, lower socioeconomic neighborhoods, or rural communities, and that are organized to prepare program graduates for service in those neighborhoods and communities, or that seek to recruit and retain racially and ethnically diverse students, underrepresented groups, or people from underserved or historically marginalized communities.

In California, licensed midwives (LMs) are regulated by the Medical Board of California, and primarily practice in community-based settings, including birth centers and home births. Certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) are registered nurses and are regulated by the California Board of Registered Nursing, primarily practicing in clinics and hospitals. Both LMs and CNMs meet international midwifery education standards and provide high-quality care focused on pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum, including family planning and newborn care, with CNMs also offering broader gynecologic services.

**Proposed Law:** Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require, upon appropriation from the Legislature, the HCAI to administer funding for a statewide study on midwifery education and require the study to be conducted by an outside consultant familiar with the health care and midwifery landscapes and workforce in California.
- Require the HCAI to submit a report from the study’s findings to the Legislature and to post the report on the department’s internet website.

**Related Legislation:** SB 520 (Caballero) would create the California Nurse-Midwifery Education Fund within the HCAI for the purpose of establishing California-based, master's level, nurse-midwifery education programs within the California State University, the University of California, or both. The bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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