Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legislator Coker and Rockland Midwives Hold Event in Support of NYS Midwifery Modernization Act

New City, NY (June 22, 2010) – Legislator Connie Coker is joining Licensed Midwives in support of the passage of the Midwifery Modernization Act by the New York State Legislature during this session.

Legislator Coker, a retired Licensed Midwife, and the Rockland County Midwives are inviting supporters of midwifery and the families they have served to join them at a picnic at the Pavilion, Haverstraw Bay Park, June 24th 2010 from 4:30pm until dusk, rain or shine.

Coker asks that residents of Rockland County who are committed to quality women's health care and a woman's right to choose her provider during a pregnancy or for gynecological care to contact and thank Assemblymembers Ellen Jaffee and Kenneth Zebrowski for their support of the Midwifery Modernization Act (S5007/A8117-a). Passage of this law will eliminate the requirement for a Licensed Midwife to have a written practice agreement with a physician.

"A written practice agreement does not guarantee the safety of women and babies," said Coker. "What it does mean - physicians can limit a woman's choice as to her provider when pregnant. Midwives are highly-educated, have stringent licensure requirements, and are expert at knowing when to collaborate and consult with physicians. The midwifery model of care is the reason for the excellent outcomes we see with midwife-attended births."

Coker added, "We are hopeful that other Assembly members will join Assemblywoman Jaffee and Assemblyman Zebrowski in supporting the Midwifery Modernization Act, which will make our picnic a celebration of freedom of access to midwifery care for women in our State."

To contact Rockland's State Assemblymembers, please write, call or email as follows:

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