I, Betsy Morton, am a certified nurse midwife (CNM), certified for over 33 years, writing in response to the article, "Midwives as abortion care providers: Evidence from a National Survey of Early Career U.S. Midwives" [1] The title is misleading as this study does not demonstrate in any quantifiable way how many CNM/CMs actually are providers of abortion.

This study has significant limitations: Firstly, according to AMCB data, there are currently close to 15,000 (14,941) CNM/CMs certified, but this study surveyed only 4,117 midwives, those who were certified in the past 5 years. It is not clear why the author chose to survey these midwives, but of the 4,117 CNMS/CMs who received the survey, only 634 individuals (16%) responded, (a very low response rate). Could it be that most midwives want nothing to do with abortion, so they ignored the study? Of those who responded, only 400 were in states that allow midwives to perform medical or surgical abortion. Of these 400 respondents who are in states that allow abortion, only 119 CNM/CMs provide “abortion care”. The low response rate may be related to the fact that most CNM/CMs reflect what has been noted for the ~40,000 board certified OB/GYNs 86% of whom do not perform elective abortions

Another significant limitation with this study is that “abortion care” is not defined. The authors' state “the term “abortion care” lacks a standard definition and may have been interpreted to include counseling, referrals, miscarriage management, or follow up care, in addition to direct provision” of abortion. The responses accordingly can’t give any meaningful data about how many midwives are actually performing abortions - either medical or surgical. .Data on the sexual orientation and religion of the respondents is reported, noting its relationship to the provision of abortion. Missing is any discussion on why they reported these data and if they feel they are significant.

Midwifery has long been a life-affirming profession - from ancient times to the present day. Midwives have always advocated for and provided care to both patients - mothers and their babies. This article, despite the title, has so many limitations that it can’t provide significant meaningful data on midwives as abortion providers.

[1] Lindberg LD, Blumenfeld J, Alspaugh A. Midwives as abortion care providers: Evidence from a National Survey of Early Career Midwives. Contraception 162 (2026) 111481