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Jennifer Block, Author of 'Pushed': The Painful Truth About Childbirth and Modern Maternity Care to Speak at Mother-Friendly Childbirth Forum

Raleigh, N.C. (PRWEB) March 5, 2008 -- All women thinking about becoming pregnant and maternal-child health professionals concerned about the current state of affairs in maternity care will want to hear journalist and author, Jennifer Block speak about why pregnant women may be receiving suboptimal care that may also be violating women's rights. Block, will speaking on Saturday, March 8th at the Radisson Worldgate Resort in Kissimmee, Florida. The presentation is sponsored by the Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS) and is open to the public. To register for the CIMS Forum, contact Chris Murphy Peck at [chris @ motherfriendly.org](mailto:chris@motherfriendly.org) or call 888-282-2467. The full program is available at <http://www.motherfriendly.org>.

Pushed is described by Kirkus Reviews as "a provocative and hotly controversial analysis of a side of reproductive rights feminism seems to have forgot." Publisher's Weekly called Jennifer Block's book, a "highly readable expos that "raises questions of great consequence for anyone planning to have a baby in the U.S., as well as those interested or involved in women's health care."

Ms. Block will be speaking about successful models of maternity care already established in the U.S. The presentation will be of interest to childbirth educators, doulas, lactation consultants, midwives, nurses, physicians, psychologists and sociologists. Ms. Block will be available for a book signing.

Each year, the CIMS Forum brings together research experts, professionals, advocates, and consumers of maternity care from the U.S. and abroad to learn and work side by side for three energizing days of collaborative education, networking, solution making and sharing.

Attendees will benefit from formal presentations by leaders in the field, and interactive workshops and educational sessions. Participants work on innovative and creative solutions for a wellness model of maternity care that improves outcomes and lowers costs.

The Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS), a United Nations recognized NGO, is a collaborative effort of numerous individuals, leading researchers, and more than 50 organizations representing over 90,000 members. Promoting a wellness model of maternity care that will improve birth outcomes and substantially reduce costs; CIMS developed the Mother-Friendly

Childbirth Initiative in 1996. A consensus document that has been recognized as an important model for improving the healthcare and well being of children beginning at birth, the Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative has been translated into several languages and is gaining support around the world.

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The *Coalition for Improving Maternity Services* (CIMS) is a coalition of individuals and national organizations with concern for the care and well-being of mothers, babies, and families. Our mission is to promote a wellness model of maternity care that will improve birth outcomes and substantially reduce costs. This evidence-based mother-, baby-, and family-friendly model focuses on prevention and wellness as the alternatives to high-cost screening, diagnosis, and treatment programs.