



CIMS
COALITION FOR IMPROVING
MATERNITY SERVICES

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www.MotherFriendly.org

June 9, 2009

Stacey Gregg, CD(DONA)
New Jersey Maternity Care Worst to First 2010 Campaign
40 Sunrise Rd
Wharton, NJ 07885

Dear Stacey;

The Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS) salutes you for your efforts to improve the quality of maternity care and birth outcomes in New Jersey. CIMS supports the New Jersey Maternity Care Worst to First 2010 Campaign to reduce unnecessary interventions that are not supported by medical evidence. Unnecessary medical interventions expose mothers and babies to increased harms without improving health outcomes.

CIMS shares your concern for the health and safety of New Jersey's birthing women who are currently subjected to some of the nation's highest rates of episiotomy and cesarean surgery. The evidence-based Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative (MFCI) provides guidance to facilities as to the appropriate rates of these interventions. Specifically, the MFCI indicates that a facility should have a goal episiotomy rate of 5% or less and the c-section rate should not exceed 10%-15%. For more information on the specific steps that facilities can take to provide evidence-based Mother-Friendly Care, please visit us online at www.motherfriendly.org.

Thank you for advocating on behalf of New Jersey's birthing women. We extend our best wishes and appreciation to all the women and families who are working so tirelessly to take New Jersey from "worst to first by 2010."

On behalf of CIMS and all of the women who will make childbirth decisions based on evidence, body wisdom, and their own personal choice, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Nicette Jukelevics, MA, ICCE
CIMS Communication Chair
On behalf of the CIMS Leadership Team

Making Mother-Friendly Care A Reality

CIMS is a not-for-profit organization recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). Our mission is to promote a wellness model of maternity care that will improve birth outcomes and substantially reduce costs.