

**THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**  
Wayne Dumont Jr., Administration Building  
165 County Route 519, South  
Belvidere, NJ 07823

**RESOLUTION**

On a motion by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held April 8, 2020.

**RESOLUTION IMPLORING THE GOVERNORS OF NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA, AS WELL AS THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF ST. LUKE'S UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK AND THE LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK, TO PROMULGATE UPDATED PROTOCOLS REGARDING OBSTETRICAL LABOR, DELIVERY AND VISITATION**

**WHEREAS**, to witness the birth of a child is our best opportunity “to experience the meaning of the word miracle” (Paul Carvel); and

**WHEREAS**, one of the greatest joys experienced by a spouse is being able to participate in the birth of and have that initial bonding with a new baby; and

**WHEREAS**, many Warren County couples have brought it to the attention of the Board of Chosen Freeholders that St. Luke's University Health Network and Lehigh Valley Health Network have imposed a ban on New Jersey visitors, including for maternity visits; and

**WHEREAS**, this ban is particularly discriminatory against Warren County couples, as neither hospital in Warren County offers maternity services, leaving expectant parents no choice but to use medical facilities located outside of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, Warren County's number of COVID-19 infections is far fewer than the amount reported in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley, where St. Luke's University Health Network and Lehigh Valley Health Network maternity facilities are located, so a ban on family members assisting in the birth of a baby is an unnecessary and heavy-handed approach not supported by the facts; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York Department of Health has updated specific guidelines for obstetrical and pediatric settings providing for familial support in labor and delivery as well as the immediate postpartum period if the patient so desires; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli has issued an order to hospitals requiring them to allow one designated support person to be with the expectant mother, deeming such support as essential to patient care throughout labor, delivery, and the immediate postpartum period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders shares the sentiment that a child's birth is a special moment and should be celebrated; and

**WHEREAS**, the delivery of a baby without a spouse or any family members present creates additional stress and anxiety, which could impact delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, an amended order on visitation, being cognizant of symptoms of COVID-19 and protocols addressing the health, safety and welfare of all patients and staff, should be implemented to ensure a practical, prudent, and reasonable policy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren requests that Gov. Phil Murphy of the State of New Jersey and Gov. Tom Wolf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as the respective boards of trustees of St. Luke’s University Hospital Network and the Lehigh Valley Health Network, modify the policies for labor and delivery for the birth of a child to permit participation by designated family; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Gov. Murphy, Gov. Wolf, and to the respective boards of trustees of St. Luke’s University Hospital Network and the Lehigh Valley Health Network.

**ROLL CALL: Mr. Kern, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Sarnoski**

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk  
Alex J. Lazorisak

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