

**The Gladys Taylor McGarey Medical Foundation is playing a leadership role with the In The Womb Project. In The Womb focuses on womb health and believes womb health impacts the world's health. Its vision is to present comprehensive, inclusive, and scientifically based information about preconception, conception, pregnancy and birth that will allow every birthing woman to make conscious decisions for her health and the health of her baby.**

### **Position Statement on Hospital Birth vs. Home birth**

**This statement was created in recognition of the differing views of the safety of home and hospital birth.**

- 1. Where a baby is born is not as important as the love with which it is conceived.**
- 2. Where a baby is born is not as important as the love a baby feels while in utero. This is reflected, in part, by the thoughts, feelings and actions of the mother, father, family, friends and caregivers. Specifically, the food a mother eats, the time she spends bonding , communicating and reflecting on her baby, preventing exposure to the energy of interpersonal conflict and violence, and time spent communing with nature all have a positive impact on the fetus that far outweighs the location of its birth. The origins of human health and happiness begin with conception, prenatal life and birth, and the awareness that unborn babies are conscious and sentient beings. Mothers and babies are the most important partners in the childbirth process.**
- 3. Where a baby is born is not as important as how it is born. The way in which caregivers, mothers, father and family think, feel and act during labor will have a far greater impact on the emotional, spiritual and physical health of a newborn than the location. We acknowledge the negative impact of the 'medicalization' of childbirth and the overutilization of obstetric interventions, and scheduled inductions. As technological skills expand, we must never forget the need to balance the gifts of modern science with the fragile gift of human life. The most important birth intervention is to make sure that childbirth is a sacred, loving and conscious process. We honor that mothers, not doctors, can deliver their own babies, with occasional help from medical personnel. We also are aware that a nurturing, conscious birth can happen both at home as well as a hospital setting - in such a way that brings love and joy to the hearts of all those in attendance, including, of course the baby.**
- 4. We, agree that the origins of health and individual psychology lay in the atmosphere around conception, and in the womb. The kindness shown and experienced at birth becomes the imprint for life. The love shown a child in utero and at birth becomes the foundation of how this child will think, feel and perceive itself and its relationship to the world. Each new member of the human family deserves to grow, develop and be born in a safe continuum of compassionate care - be it in a bed at home or a high tech hospital.**