



International Center for Traditional Childbearing

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To: The Health Care Committee
Committee Chair Representative Mitch Greenlick
Vice Chair Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
Vice Chair Representative Jim Thompson

April 5, 2013

Good day Committee Chair Greenlick and Health Care Committee Members:

My name is Shafia M. Monroe, president and CEO of the International Center for Traditional Childbearing (ICTC). The ICTC is an infant mortality prevention, breastfeeding promotion and midwife and doula training non-profit organization serving the state of Oregon since 1997. The ICTC has been training doulas, as traditional health workers since 2002.

Thank you for allowing me to present on the importance of HB3407, to establish the Traditional Health Workers Commission as the rule making body within the Oregon Health Authority. This is in line with other professional organization directing their professional development and voice to better serve Oregon's vulnerable populations.

Doulas are traditional health workers that aid pregnant women and a new mothers with the social and emotional support that empowers them to access pre and postnatal services, and provides the needed support in between medical visits that results with improved birth outcomes and better breastfeeding rates in vulnerable populations. The research shows that pregnant women who can access doula services have less cesareans sections. This is important for preventing unnecessary surgery while saving the state money through the use of doula services.

The ICTC endorses HB3407, because doulas will better serve the needs of the Oregon's most vulnerable population through a Traditional Health Workers Commission (THWC), because the THWC is experienced with needs of the profession allowing them to represent traditional health workers in the health care transformation agenda with the benefits that a specific commission would provide.

It's exciting that Oregon has committed to increase health care access to its citizen with CCO's and recognizes the important role that Traditional Health Worker offer as part of the solution to improve health care for all.

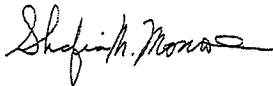
I believe that Oregon will benefit with a THWC to represent the Traditional Health Worker profession state wide. The Traditional Health Worker Commission will ensure appropriate training and standards are in place to prepare both workers and health systems in our health care transformation. As a doula trainer, it is important that the graduates have oversight in their own profession for longevity of the profession.

I believe House Bill 3407 is a necessity to elevate and connect Traditional Health Workers to the Coordinated Care Organization members, improve quality of care while saving health care cost for the state.

I would be happy to meet with committee members in the near future to answer question personally.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shafia M. Monroe".

Shafia M. Monroe, CM, MPH
President and CEO