

Dear Senator Monnes-Anderson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services,

I am writing to you in opposition to any additional consolidation of a health related board under the Oregon Health Licensing Agency. Many of you know me. I am vocal and I am a vocal critic of the Oregon Health Licensing Agency and their absolute abysmal lack of regulation for public safety regarding the Licensed Direct Entry Midwifery profession. To place any other health related profession under OHLA would be to over load OHLA and to put the public at a great safety risk.

I feel strongly that each educated health related profession is best to have a strong framework to regulate them and many of these boards do have that framework in place and functioning. (I do not put the direct entry midwifery profession in the category of an 'educated health related profession' as they really are a lay profession with a state title to call themselves 'licensed' for billing purposes only.) I do not feel that OHLA has anything to offer the 'educated' professions for if that was true then both the nursing and the medical boards would go under OHLA also - but note the bill does not include them.

I ask you to please vote 'no' on SB 302 but I also ask that if you ever get the chance keep the direct entry midwifery profession tightly under OHLA, meaning do not free them from what little regulation they do have, and to give OHLA a demand to improve public safety by removing high risk care out of their scope of practice immediately.

One more thing: the Board of Direct Entry Midwifery is in debt now and will only increase its indebtedness due to investigation and litigation costs and it would be patently unfair to ask other health related professions, who have worked hard to improve themselves, to shift their licensing fees to bail them out.

Yours truly,

Sharron Fuchs