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To: House Health Care Committee

Re: HB 2997

Dear Chair Greenlick, Vice Chairs Keny-Guyer and Thompsen and Members of the Committee:

The Trillium Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) applauds the House Committee on Health Care for their efforts to provide protections to Mothers and newborns. However, we are concerned that HB 2997 has loopholes that still allow midwifery to be practiced without a license.

The Trillium CCO's primary concern is patient safety. Trillium believes that professional licensure with clearly stated requirements for training and education is in the best interest of the Mother and newborn. Additionally, if oversight is removed from the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) the Board of Direct Entry Midwifery should be required in statute to implement quality benchmarks, investigatory standards and commit to the disclosure of data regarding patient complaints and investigations to further protect the public's interests and promote patient safety.

Finally, the addition of 2-(b) in Section 18, of HB 2997 is concerning. The use of tocolytics requires clinical assessment that may be beyond the level of knowledge that can be reasonably expected from a DEM. The decision regarding which tocolytic to use is complex and the types of complications and side-effects that can occur are significant. From a patient safety perspective, if a DEM is concerned that a patient is in preterm labor then the appropriate care would be to refer the patient immediately for emergency care at the nearest hospital.

The Trillium CCO is committed to healthcare that maintains quality standards and provides protections to the OHP beneficiaries we serve. We appreciate the Committee's efforts toward public policy that furthers these objectives.