

March 15, 13

To Whom It May Concern,

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of meeting with several State Representatives and Senators regarding the upcoming discussion on House Bill 2997, which seeks to require licensure for direct entry midwives in Oregon.

As a practicing physician in Oregon, I feel that it is vital for families to have the option of using midwives for the chance to deliver their children at home. Thankfully, my wife and I were able to exercise this option with our second daughter, who was welcomed into our lives in March of 2012 in the comfort of our own home. Our midwives were amazing and provided us with a level of personal attention and care that far exceeded what we experienced in the hospital with the birth of our first daughter.

After looking at the evidence regarding home births, it became clear to me that the use of a knowledgeable, trained and licensed direct entry midwife was far safer than having a traditional birth in the hospital. Our midwives were diligent, prepared and comforting, and I wholeheartedly believe that we would not have received the same personal attention in the hospital.

Additionally, the use of midwives is far more affordable than delivering in the hospital. Especially in the current budgetary environment in Oregon, I think that it is vital that we do everything possible to contain costs. The use of direct entry midwives helps to fill a huge void in Oregon, and this bill would create a safe environment for families.

I would be more than happy to further answer questions that any of you may have. I apologize for not being able to testify in person, but if there is anything I can do to help foster this process, please do not hesitate to contact me. I urge you to support HB 2997 in its current form.

Sincerely yours,

Bobak A. Ghaheri, MD

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