

February 15, 2013

Dear Members of the Health Care Committee,

I am writing in support of HB2997 regarding Direct Entry Midwifery in the State of Oregon. I am a consumer of midwifery services and absolutely and unequivocally support midwifery in our state. I am so grateful for the highly skilled, thorough, and compassionate care I received from my midwives for the births of my two daughters. I value the responsibility I was able to take for my own care, making decisions for myself and my children with knowledgeable guidance from my midwives. I appreciate the time they took with me; every prenatal was an hour of conversation, education, and assessment of my health and that of my baby.

Not only do midwives provide excellent care, they do so for very little money. Midwives are an amazing financial boon to the State. I cannot believe that the CCOs are not lining up to sign midwives on to their care plans. A home birth costs around \$3500.00 global care for significantly more prenatal, birth and postpartum care than is provided to women who choose hospital birth.

My midwives provided care for me and my baby through 2 months postpartum. I didn't have to look for other care providers during this challenging time (or pay additional providers!). They came to my house three times in the first week after the birth. I love the continuity of care that Direct Entry Midwifery provides. Even CNMs are not able to provide this long term, supportive care of families during this critical time because they are not experts in newborn care; Direct Entry Midwives are.

So for all of these reasons and a hundred more, I support the choice of women and families in Oregon to work with Direct Entry Midwives for their births and well woman care. Midwives should be treated like other health professionals - with an autonomous Board, with a reasonable licensing fee, and unbiased, safe investigation proceedings. I would go even further and say that midwives should not be treated like second class health professionals who need supervision from Obstetricians or CNMs on their Board.

Sincerely,

Nichole Reding
380 S. Locust St.
Candy, OR 97013
503-263-3961