

March 24, 2015

TO: Representative Mitch Greenlick

FROM: Anita Rojas, Owner  
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HB-3456 requires health benefit plan to reimburse care by licensed midwives in freestanding birth centers.

HB-3451 requires Oregon Health Authority to reimburse freestanding birth centers based on median cost to birthing centers in this state of providing services.

These two different but related bills are very much needed to support the continued financial solvency of freestanding birth centers in the state of Oregon. Nearly half of all births in Oregon are covered by the Oregon Health Plan, and 90% of women birthing at Sacred Waters Birth Center are OHP clients. When OHP payments are inadequate, delayed, or denied, Sacred Waters experiences financial crises. We at Sacred Waters fully support any changes in law that lead to more ease in OHP payments for midwifery care.

These changes are beneficial for the state as well, due to the fact that midwifery care costs less than obstetrical care for equally good health outcomes to mother and baby.

Please support the passage of both HB-3451 and HB-3456.

Thank you kindly,

Anita Rojas, CPM and Founder  
And the Midwives of Sacred Waters Birth Center