

Rep Weidner

From: Bella Pribyl <pribyli@sou.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:31 PM
To: Rep Weidner
Subject: Support for HB3451

Dear Representative,

My name is Isabella Pribyl and I am writing a letter in support of HB3451, a bill which will require Oregon Health Plan to compensate birth centers for their actual costs instead of simply paying them \$600.00 which does not even come close to covering the cost of care. I have been a resident of Oregon my entire life. I graduated from the University of Oregon Clark Honors College Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with a degree in Women's and Gender Studies, multiple academic scholarships, and an undergraduate thesis that not only passed with distinction but also won the Barbara Corrado Pope Award for a thesis that deals with gender and diversity. Additionally, I am a trained Doula, have worked as a midwifery student, and am currently enrolled in Southern Oregon University as I pursue my path towards becoming a Certified Nurse Midwife. I explain these accomplishments to illustrate my understanding of Women's issues, the birth industry, and the importance of structures (especially medical structures) that support women.

Over the past year and a half, I have witnessed the quality of care given by one of Oregon's largest free standing birth centers run by Licensed Direct Entry Midwives. The care given to the women who birth there has far exceeded care I have seen in any other environment. Not only do they practice safe, thorough, and comprehensive medical care, the emotional support and full consideration of the psychological importance of this time period for women, families and our greater society produces happier, healthier and more confident families.

The women who run this birth center work incredibly long hours, are on call the majority of the year (often every day for 11.5 months of the year), extend clinic hours to accommodate client schedules, and make huge sacrifices in their personal lives to care for these families. The birth center has a consistent client base and there is a clear demand in our community for this business. However, due to payment challenges from the Oregon Health Plan the birth center struggles to meet its financial needs. If this bill fails it is increasingly likely that this vital resource for women will not be able to remain.

The passing of this bill is essential for the continuation of quality perinatal care in Oregon. As a woman who has had extensive education in this field I fully support HB3451. As someone who has worked in healthcare and is continuing to pursue a career in healthcare I fully support HB3451. As a community member in my fertile years I wholeheartedly support HB3451. As a voting citizen and dedicated member of Oregon's community I strongly urge you to support HB3451 as well.

Thank you for your time,

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