

*Testimony submitted via email.*

Greetings! I am writing to tell you I am in favor of HB 2015.

As a member of the Southern Oregon Doulas, I see first hand from the clients I work with and second hand from my local, national, and international doula colleagues how valuable the care we provide is. "Doulas are an evidence-based practice and thus we should bolster the effort to integrate doulas into the health care system, especially for Medicaid clients, as this will improve health outcomes, provided greater quality of care, and reduce health care costs."

We are also extensively trained Professionals, and we strongly advocate for this bill to "increase the reimbursement floor in order to incentivize the doula work force, especially for doulas culturally matched to the prioritized populations." This creates sustainability within the career and better guarantees the availability and commitment of Professional Doulas to serve the prioritized populations.

We also acknowledge our integral part of the birth team with staff at hospitals and birth centers, Doctors, Midwives, and the CCOs who all help provide essential care to pregnant and postpartum families. To be better seen as part of the whole, we are needing this bill "to create accountability by the health care system to honor the contractual obligation to provide doula services and the need for greater support by Oregon Health Authority to implement the services." This includes having a direct pathway for billing and reimbursement, as well a "need to track implementation of the various components of the doula services program, to continually assess the workforce needs and to address any barriers to clients being served."

THANK YOU SO MUCH, and please be in touch if you have any questions.

-Allison Kirschenmann