

Testimony submitted via email.

To whom it may concern:

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner in Portland, OR. I work for Providence Health Systems and we have had an inpatient doula program in place to support our laboring patients for the last four years. The patients in our practice do not have to pay additional fees for this service and it is provided to all patients that desire their support. Our patients have had universally positive reviews of the doula support available to them and really feel that the doulas have made a difference in their care.

Last year we had 600+ births within our midwifery practice. Over 90% received doula support in labor. 50% of our patients did not utilize an epidural for pain management. Our primary cesarean rate was 12%. These outcomes are exceptionally good if we compare them to national data. We attribute some of our success to our doula colleagues as they allow us to provide continuous labor support to our patients, which has been shown to improve pregnancy outcomes.

I greatly support HB 2015, as doulas provide an evidence based service to our community. The more we can integrate doulas into our health care system, particularly for Medicaid clients, the better outcomes we will have as a state. Oregon should continue to lead the way nationally for integrated doula care.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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