

*Testimony submitted via email.*

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in favor of HB 2015.

I have worked closely with doula's as a CNM in a hospital based practice in Portland Oregon. The care they deliver has been instrumental in lowering health care costs. Our use of epidurals has decreased. As well, the cesarean section rate has been 15 % which is far below the national average.

Doula's are an evidence based practice. We should bolster the effort to integrate their care into the health care system, especially for Medicaid patients. This will improve outcomes, improve quality of care and decrease cost of care. We have seen this happen in our practice over the past 4 years.

HB 2015 would work to increase the reimbursement floor In order to incentivize the doula work force particularly for doulas culturally matched to the prioritized population.

I hope you support this bill, which will be so helpful in the work that the doula's do.

Thank you for your attention,

Patti Spooner CNM, FNP