



BREASTFEEDING COALITION OF OREGON

Written Testimony:

My name is Kevin R. McCray Jr., I am a concerned father, husband, community member, and board chair of the Breastfeeding Coalition of Oregon, a state recognized coalition by the United States Breastfeeding Committee. On behalf of the eleven board members comprising the Breastfeeding Coalition of Oregon, we recommend that House Bill 2503 and 2504 not be advanced by the House Committee on Health Care at this time.

The Breastfeeding Coalition of Oregon's mission is to support and increase access to lactation counseling and support services however this bill has not been advanced utilizing all the voices of the community such as peer counselors, traditional community health workers, community health workers, doulas, the community that we serve, and other concerned organizations. We do believe that lactation support should be reimbursed, recognized, and treated like a true component of health care, but we cannot forget that disparities arise when everyone is not in collaboration.

The Breastfeeding Coalition of Oregon works hand in hand with the United States Breastfeeding Committee to improve support, promotion, and protection for breastfeeding as outlined in [the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding](#). We want to make sure that we recognize all levels of support within the field of breastfeeding. Right now we call for equity and acknowledgement of systems that do not grant the same permissions to those who do not have the privilege. We do not want to eliminate or add any steps that will harm anyone along this road to reimbursement, quality of healthcare, knowledge of self, or experiencing the power of community.

The Breastfeeding Coalition of Oregon asks again that these bills not be advanced but given to the most inclusive and diverse drawing board that can be found in Oregon engaging people from rural areas, diverse cultural backgrounds, all income brackets, varying educational backgrounds, pulling from all levels of experience within the breastfeeding field, all genders, and concerned organizations. The Breastfeeding Coalition of Oregon appreciates the work of those in support of this bill and we hope and desire to work together to make this bill equitable for all.

We sincerely thank you for your time and effort around this topic,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KR McCray Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Strategic Framework

