

**Testimony in Support of HB 4133**

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Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 4133. My name is Nancy MacMorris-Adix and I am a Certified Nurse Midwife. I am a proud member of the Oregon Nurses Association's Cabinet on Health Policy and Legislative Chair for the Oregon Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives -- a group that has followed ONA's lead and is working to support passage of 4133.

We support establishing a Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee within the Oregon Health Authority because it's critical that Oregon take meaningful steps to study and stop the high rates of premature deaths among mothers in Oregon.

Maternal death is defined as "the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy... from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes."<sup>1</sup> The main causes of maternal death include severe bleeding, infection, unsafe abortion, high blood pressure, and prolonged or obstructed labor.

In the last thirty years alone, the maternal mortality rate for the US has more than doubled and we now have a higher rate than most other high-income countries, in addition to a higher propensity for material morbidity and mortality than in Iran, Libya and Turkey.<sup>2</sup> In Oregon, for every 100,000 live births, there are 13.7 maternal deaths.<sup>3</sup> According to the World Health Organization, about half of all maternal deaths in the US are preventable through effective interventions and care during pregnancy and delivery.<sup>4</sup>

HB 4133 takes meaningful steps in addressing this grave concern by studying and making recommendations on the incidence of maternal mortality and morbidity, particularly as it is compounded by social determinants of health, including race and ethnicity, socio-economic status, access to primary and preventative care, and gaps in insurance postpartum.

We also strongly encourage the committee to adopt the -1 amendment to HB 4133, which adds to the committee a labor and delivery registered nurse, in addition to the nurse midwife nurse practitioner outlined in the original bill. Labor and delivery nurses are at the forefront of helping patients through these complex situations, so their voices should be an invaluable part of this committee.

It's time that Oregon takes meaningful steps to put our country on-par with other high-income nations in investing in the long-term health of mothers. HB 4133 takes the first step in bringing together experts in this field to identify patterns in maternal mortality and morbidity and work to make sure that all Oregonians live long and healthy lives.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/healthinfo/statistics/inmaternalmortality/en/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/3/14-148627/en/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2016-health-of-women-and-children-report/measure/maternal\\_mortality/state/OR](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2016-health-of-women-and-children-report/measure/maternal_mortality/state/OR)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/3/14-148627/en/>