



February 8, 2018

Dear Honorable State Representatives:

My name is Shafia M. Monroe and I am writing to urge your support for HB 4133 which would create a Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee in Oregon.

Maternal mortality has drastically increased in the last decade with the United States boasting the highest instance of maternal deaths of any industrialized nation. Women of color, specifically black women, have disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality as do people who are low-income and those living in rural areas.

HB 4133 creates a Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee that will review instances of maternal death and morbidity to better understand racial and economic inequities, gaps or biases in care, and other systems issues to make recommendations on how to close disparities and prevent further deaths.

As a public health professional, midwife, and doula trainer, I work with families who are most affected by this issue. I strongly believe that a Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee in Oregon would help us find ways to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and I encourage an Aye vote.

Sincerely,

Shafia M. Monroe, DEM, CDT, MPH