

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Adina Blackwell and I have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed midwifery care. Please vote yes on house bill 2845 to increase access to midwifery care!

I had my first baby safely at home nearly 10 months ago. My midwives skillfully handled everything. While my baby maintained a good heartrate (in certain positions), my baby was born blue and not breathing, and I also hemorrhaged. They did not take any chances but called emergency services right away when Clara would not breath, fortunatly our midwife got her breathing before they arrived--and that while keeping her within arms reach. I was able to keep my hand on my child while she administered rescue breaths. They gave me a shot of pitocine and the bleeding stoped right away.

I am so incredibly grateful to have been able to stay at home surrounded by loving and attentive support! My husband and mother were with me in addition to the midwife team who stayed with me every step of the way. I was able to have the water birth I desired, while getting expert care to deal with the unexpected and get into my own bed after! My labor only lasted 7 hrs.

Not only did my midwives provide excelent labor support but also postpartum visits (as well as I could text them when I had any questions). But They also provided excelent breastfeeding support. We had trouble at first and my midwife who is also a lactation consultant diagnosed her with toungue tie and got us an excelent referal and we were able to get it taken care of quickly and have enjoyed a fantastic breastfeeding relationship ever since!

I plan to have the rest of my babies at home as well and increased insurance coverage would be a major help! I was on ohp for the duration of my pregnancy and I recently learned that they only cover half of the midwifwery fees. Which is why some midwives and birth centers are unable to accept ohp. My amazing midwives never even told me they were not getting fully compensated! But cared for me as if I were a full paying customer, and providing all of my pre and post natal visits in my home which was an extra time and \$ cost to them.

I personally feel that increased access to midwifery care in Oregon would reduce intervention and trauma for families as well as save on birthing costs. For healthy women, midwifery care really is a higher quality care option and the evidence supports this!

Please, please, please vote yes on 2845!!!!

Thanks so very much!!!

Adina