

*Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Health Committee,*

*I am a mother of two in Portland, OR and gave birth at home with both of them, and midwives attended both births. It was the most incredibly transforming experience of my life. I felt **safe and cared for the entire time**--from our first prenatal meeting to my last postpartum visit. People need to have options on where to give birth. Please vote yes on HB2485 so that more people have access to home birth midwifery care.*

*In my first birth, I didn't have insurance, so I paid out of pocket for the midwives. I had to borrow money to do it, which I was barely able to do. **If I hadn't come up with the money, it would have been an inaccessible choice.** The midwives managed my care so well--if there was an issue, they dealt with it. My birth was unimpeded by interventions, and my children are healthy and beautiful. I feel empowered because of my births, and trusted my midwives deeply. They are trained for this.*

*If home births are covered by more insurances, it will **save money for insurance companies and reduce the workload for hospital OB-GYNs and CNMs as well as nurses.** More people will have access to care. Please vote yes on HB2485.*

*Sincerely,  
Anna Soderberg, IBCLC*

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