

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am writing to you from the Cully neighborhood in Portland as a mother of a three year old daughter who was born at home with a Licensed midwife. I am also a student midwife planning to graduate and begin working as a home birth midwife in Portland this fall. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2845 to improve access to midwifery care.

I felt incredibly well cared for during my pregnancy, birth, and postpartum period by my midwife. She provided such comprehensive care during our hour long visits that no question went unanswered. I was as prepared as I could be for a natural labor and birth and all went super smoothly. Having a home birth actually provided immense cost savings to our state (I am insured through OHP), though many folks are not being covered by OHP or other insurance providers. A home birth costs roughly \$4,000 while a hospital can cost anywhere from \$12,000-\$25,000. About half of Oregon insurers provide limited or no coverage for birth center or home birth midwifery care.

Please vote yes on HB 2845 so that all Oregon families have access to midwifery care. Thank you for the work you do to support the health of mothers and babies.

Warmly,
Caley Brown
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