

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,  
I am a mother of two in the Portland area and had 1 of my babies in a hospital, and one in a birthing center with midwives. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2845 to improve access to midwifery care.

- Midwifery care provides large cost savings to insurers and health systems but many families still can't access midwifery care because about half of Oregon insurers (both private and OHP) provide limited or no coverage for birth center or home birth midwifery care
  - My experience at with my second child at the birthing center was beautiful, safe, and a very positive experience. It was much more nurturing than the hospital where i had my first child. my birth at the center was faster and had zero complications. postpartum care was extremely comprehensive and i felt much more equipped to leave the center with my baby.
- HB 2845 would increase access to midwifery care for Oregon families whether they choose to give birth in hospital, birth center, or home with Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, Certified Nurse Midwives, or Naturopathic Physicians.
  - **For mothers everywhere, being taken care of is critical from pregnancy through birth. Hospitals have a wonderful place and provide great care, but having access to midwives allows mothers an alternative to being in a medical environment that is somewhat sterile and overrun with many people needing care. births with midwives are cheaper (my birth was 5 times cheaper at the birthing center than it would have been at the hospital - even when covered under insurance) working with midwives is much more intimate for moms, with longer appointments and faster follow up. giving more women access to births through midwives would free hospital doctors to focus on complex birth cases where their skills are more needed, and allow those with noncomplicated medical births a more relaxed, less medical emergency style birth.**

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.

**Jasmine Agnor, 98556**