

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a Portland mother of two grown children, the older of whom was born in a hospital, the younger of whom was born in my home.

I share my story in support of HB 2845 which would allow more women access to midwifery as a prenatal and birthing option.

For both births, I was primarily attended by midwives and both births had ultimately successful outcomes. The births were markedly different from each other however, as a result of how much decision-making latitude the midwives had.

Both birth labors were about 48 hrs long but the home birth was entirely unmedicated. Despite the dedication and experience of the midwife at the hospital, the atmosphere and rules (IV, many interventions) made the experience extremely painful and stressful for me and the baby's birth was an emergency one, handled by the OB on call that night.

In stark contrast, the home birth was joyful, unrushed and followed the rhythms of the baby and my body, not the clinicians.

My young family did not have the money for the first birth to be attended by midwives as the insurance wouldn't cover a home birth. Thankfully my pregnancy was followed by a midwifery clinic attached to a local hospital but I wasn't allowed to give birth at home.

I have no doubt whatsoever that birth would not have been as traumatic for the baby and me if I had been allowed to labor at my own pace, at home.

We paid for the second birth ourselves. While a burden for us, the cost was a small fraction of what the hospital charged our insurance for the first birth, and included all the pre/ postnatal care.

Midwife-attended births, especially at birth centers or at home make sense both financially and with regard to the mothers and babies.

Please vote YES on HB 2845.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Typos are an auto-correctional hazard.