

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a mother of two in Portland and I have had one hospital birth and one birth center birth with midwives. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2845 to improve access to midwifery care in Oregon. Having had babies at both a hospital with a doctor as my care provider verses having a team of three midwives supporting my birth, I feel so lucky to have had the experience I did with the care of midwives. After leaving my first birth feeling largely unsupported and like my wishes weren't a priority, I wanted a different experience for the birth of our second child. I felt like I needed a better support system and closer relationship with my care provider. The care we received leading up to the birth, the birth and postpartum care for me and our baby was amazing with our midwives from Alma Midwifery. I am so grateful to have had this experience and feel it directly related to me having a more natural birth. I will never forget it.

Another positive outcome was that we paid far less out of pocket overall with a birth center birth vs a hospital birth. We had an estimation on what our insurance would cover but they weren't clear on what the actual cost would be until after I gave birth. Even with the uncertainty, we were luckily financially able to go a head with midwifery care anyway feeling it was the best choice for our family. My hope is for more women to have access to midwifery care and at least the flexibility to choose what the right care is for them. Please vote yes on HB 2845 so all Oregon families have better access to midwifery care.

Thank you for working to better support the health of moms and babies!

Sincerely,
Julia Shinn
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