Please vote yes on HB 2845 so that all Oregon families have access to midwifery care.

I had all three of my children through nurse midwifery practices. I chose nurse midwives because of the reverent and supportive frame of midwifery practice. I experienced two birth center births and one midwifery practice within a hospital.

Going to a birth center meant, of course, that I would be paying out of pocket. My insurance only covered in-hospital births. You may never know the feeling of sadness and oppression that a mother feels when being told under what conditions and where she is "allowed" to have her baby.

What I discovered in midwifery care was amazing. The most empowering, supportive and compassionate care I've ever experienced. All of my prenatal appointments included my nurse midwife team, 3 all at once, to run through the standard tests and assessments as in a non midwifery practice, but in an environment that felt like home. With such attention and care. I tell my friends that you feel completely taken care of and your body's innate knowledge of how to have a baby is discussed, visualised and achieved.

Were you not born of a woman? What reverence in her birthing process do you have as a law maker? My own mother tells the story of my birth with an epidural, her hands tied to the exam table (to not contaminate her baby), her legs up in stirrups to give the doctor the best view. Gravity totally not on her side and unable to use her full body strength. The message was very much one of control and disbelief in her innate power to birth. It's no wonder I was born with the use of a vacuum suction and scissors. This was a demeaning experience for my mother. This would never happen in nurse 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.

Sincerely,

Kari Christensen, MPH, RYT
Mother of 3
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