

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Health Committee,

As a nurse and mother, I ask that you support HB 2845 which would provide access to midwifery care to all women, whether they want to birth in a hospital, at a birth center or at home. Aside from the great outcomes midwives provide for mothers and babies and the value they add to rural populations, I would like to share my own story.

When I had my children, we had great insurance, but few financial resources. For my first two children I paid nothing to have them in the hospital and only \$100 to have my third child in the hospital. To be honest, I didn't really know that I had a choice to have my baby safely at home until my third child. But once I was made aware of this possibility, finances, \$100 with insurance at a hospital or \$3-4,000 out of pocket at home, made the choice for me.

Women with less resources should have the same access to quality, professional and certified nurse midwives, certified professional midwives or naturopathic midwives and any other women.

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.

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