

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a mother of one and a strong proponent of midwifery care. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2845 to improve access to midwifery care.

When I became pregnant with my child in 2016 my husband and I put a lot of thought into what kind of birth we felt was right for us and researched all the options. We decided on a home birth and found midwives to work with that we trusted. I ended up not being to birth at home as I was still not in labor two weeks past my due date and had to be induced in a hospital. Although I didn't get the home birth I desired, the pre-natal and post-natal care my baby and I received by my home birth midwives was by far the best health care experience I have ever had. Each appointment was so thorough and the level of trust we established was like nothing I'd ever had with any other health provider. I cannot adequately describe the benefits of the post-natal home visits I received for myself and my baby in the days and weeks after I gave birth. To not have to leave my home during that sensitive time and know that my baby and I were being looked after by professionals with such care should have felt so right and reasonable it should without a doubt be the standard practice for all families with a newborn.

Since I birthed in a hospital instead of at home I paid my insurance deductible which was less than what the home birth would have been out-of-pocket, since there was no coverage with my plan for a home birth. My husband and I were willing to go into some debt to cover this cost because we believed this care was best for our family. For low-risk pregnancies there is no reason a woman should not be able to choose to birth at home with trained professionals and have it covered by her insurance company like it would be in a hospital. There are numerous studies showing this practice can save the health care system a lot of money and can reduce unnecessary interventions that accompany so many hospital births and ultimately drive up the costs and risks to the patients.

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,

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