

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Health Committee,

We are a small home-birth midwifery practice in Portland requesting that you please vote yes on HB 2845 so that the families with whom we work with can have insurance coverage for the comprehensive maternal and newborn care we provide.

Our experience has been that mothers choose our care because of the benefits it provides them. Our care is personal, individualized, and safe. We know each of our mothers personally, and we are available to them 24-7 from the time they hire us until six weeks postpartum. We come to them in labor, monitor the wellbeing of mother and baby, and provide all the standard labs, medications, and management necessitated by pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period. We refer for ultrasounds and make recommendations as needed. Many people choose to pay out-of-pocket for our services because they know they will receive excellent care and they want to have the utmost safety for themselves and their baby. However, many families who desire our care cannot have it because about half of Oregon insurers, both private and OHP, provide limited or no coverage for our care. Women should be able to choose the maternity care provider they want, not the provider that is covered by their insurance.

It is heartbreaking to have to watch a family choose to give birth somewhere they do not feel comfortable with providers they do not know or trust merely based on financial restrictions. We ask that you consider the social-emotional aspects of pregnancy and open the right of families to choose their place of birth and have it be covered by their insurance.

HB 2845 would increase access to midwifery care for Oregon families whether they choose to give birth in a hospital, birth center, or at home with Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, Certified Nurse Midwives, or Naturopathic Physicians.

Thank you very much for considering our request and reading this letter. Please vote yes on HB 2845. Thank you for all the work you do to support the health of mothers and babies.

Sincerely,
Sarah McClure, CPM, LDM
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