

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a mother of five and have had one baby at home with a midwife. I support HB 2845 and ask you to support it as well, as it would increase access to safe midwifery care.

For my last birth, my husband and I had planned to save and pay for home birth midwife care out of pocket as it would not have been covered by our insurance plan. This would have been a financial difficulty, but worth it for the quality of care I received. I had health issues that ultimately prevented me from having a safe birth at home and ended up having a hospital birth, which was covered by insurance. The fact that we had planned to pay for an at-home birth speaks volumes to how affordable birth center and at-home midwifery care is. We would not have been able to save up to pay for a hospital birth out of pocket.

I am likely done having babies, but I would like my three daughters to eventually have the option of being able to choose a birth center birth or home birth, if they would like, and have the same insurance coverage as if they choose a hospital birth.

Midwifery care provides great cost savings to insurers and health systems but many families, like mine, still can't access midwifery care because about half of Oregon insurers (both private and OHP) provide limited or no coverage for birth center or home birth midwifery care. Please change this by voting yes on HB 2845. All Oregon families should be able to access the personal, high-quality and safe care that midwives provide.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Betancourt  
McMinnville, OR