

From: [Stephanie Elliott IBCLC](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 2845
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 12:29:33 PM

Dear Chair Salinas and the Members of the House Health Committee;

I am writing to express my support for HB 2845. I am a former Licensed Midwife and OHA Direct Entry Midwifery Board professional member, a mother, and a soon to be graduate student in epidemiology. As a midwife and former board member I know that the level of care provided by licensed midwives in the State of Oregon is excellent, that we have a conscientious board, and dedicated professional organizations working to support midwives in providing the safest most family-centered care possible. As a mother I understand the frustrations of having your insurance company make your medical choices for you by restricting your choice in care provider and place of birth. As a student of public health and public health advocate, I am deeply concerned with the inherent inequities of our existing health care system. This country faces startling maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality disparities by race and socioeconomic status. There has been significant economic stratification of access to home and birth center birth based on insurance companies' failure to cover legitimate licensed providers for services that reduce morbidity and cesareans while costing less. We have a long journey ahead of ourselves to repair our broken healthcare system and attain equity for all Oregonians. I am doing my part by dedicating my life to researching health disparities as a perinatal epidemiologist. I hope that you will do your part by voting yes on HB 2845.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Elliott