

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I have been a student midwife for the past 5 years. I am learning how to be a licensed Midwife so that I can provide excellent and thorough care to mothers and babies in hopes of lowering the neonatal and maternal mortality rate that remains on the rise in America. Please vote yes on HB 2845 so that the mothers I work with can have insurance coverage for the safe and cost-effective care I will provide.

Midwifery care provides large cost savings to insurers and health systems but many families 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

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

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.

-Whitney Wolfe, Student Midwife  
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