

Dear Chair Salinas and members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Patricia Richey and I am a student and soon-to-be Licensed Direct-entry Midwife in Oregon. I'm also a mother of six children. My goal in becoming a midwife was to help women have multiple safe maternity care and birth options for the optimal care of women and babies. I want these options for this kind of care available to my daughters if/when they have children.

Midwives are well trained to provide safe and excellent care in support of normal physiological birth and therefore support positive birth and health outcomes for both mamas and babies. Unfortunately, as a student I've already had the opportunity to see how insurance has become a barrier in helping women to get the care that they desire and need. HB 2845 would increase access to midwifery care for Oregon families whether they choose a hospital birth, birth center birth or homebirth with Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, Certified Nurse Midwives, or Naturopathic Physicians. It is crucial that women have the right to make these decisions for the care of themselves and their babies according to their own personal needs. We need to be able to support these women and their families, and this bill would help us to do just that.

Please vote YES on House Bill 2845 so that Oregon families have access to midwifery care. Thank you for all the work you do to support the health of mothers and babies.

Patricia Richey
(Student, soon to be LDM)
27370 NE Bell Rd
Newberg, OR 97132