

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2845, to provide all Oregon families access to midwifery care.

I am a mother of a three year old whom I gave birth to at a birth center here in Salem, with certified midwives. I am also pregnant and planning a home birth with certified midwives.

Midwives are trained medical professionals who provide excellent care above and beyond that offered in a hospital setting. They get to know their patients on an intimate level with hour long appointments and offering a continuity of care that lasts for the entire nine months pre-natal and 6-12 weeks postpartum.

I chose midwifery care because of my low risk pregnancy and my desire to be in a home, or home like setting for my birth and postpartum recovery. This environment, and the relationship with my midwives allowed me to have an intervention free, natural birth. I had a healthy baby, who breastfeed easily and I myself suffered no postpartum depression, due in large part, I believe to the wonderful care I received from my midwives.

With both my first birth at the birth center, and with my upcoming planned home birth, insurance has been unwilling to pay for the birth. My family and I have paid out of pocket. This has caused immense financial hardship to our family, but we have chosen to make this decision because it is the birth experience that we desire. I hope that this bill passes so that future midwifery care for my family will be covered by any insurance that my family might have.

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

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