

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Madeline Drescher and I am writing to encourage you to vote yes on HB 2845.

I am a birth doula and a mother of three, two of which were born at home with midwives. The time and attention that my family and I received under midwifery care was amazing. We never felt rushed, unheard or unsafe. I welcomed both of my sons into my hands in the calm of my own bedroom. My husband and I lament that our daughter wasn't received in the same manner. It makes me sad that there are families who desire the experience we had will not be able to due to cost. Many families I talk to say they would love to have a home birth but cannot afford the cost; even though a home birth costs thousands less than a hospital birth.

Midwifery care should not be a luxury and midwives should not be expected to work for free. Home birth is safe and the extended outcomes are positive. Giving families the choice, when it comes to insurance, to choose between hospital and home birth is long overdue.

I hope you will hear the hearts of the people and help make midwifery care attainable for all. Vote yes on HB2845.

I appreciate your time.

Thank you.

Madeline Drescher, Certified Birth Doula (CBI)

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541.390.2897

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