

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a Licensed Midwife and mother to two kiddos and I am writing to ask that you vote YES on HB 2845. I have been practicing in the Portland area for over 11 years. I have worked both in a birth center and now in my own small home birth practice. This bill would grant better access to midwifery care for all Oregonians, regardless of financial ability. Midwifery care is perfect for low risk women wanting excellent and safe home births. Many clients I work with don't have insurance coverage for midwives and/or home births which places a financial burden on them if they decide to continue with the care they want. Many Portlanders can't afford a home birth and are forced into a hospital birth because their insurance won't cover it otherwise. This isn't right and it isn't economical (home birth is actually more affordable for insurance companies for low risk women: \$4500 for a home birth versus \$15,000-20,000 for a vaginal hospital birth). Midwives provide excellent care and we just ask that you grant access to all those wanting it in Oregon.

I personally had both my children at home with Licensed Midwives and feel it prepared me for being a mother since I was well supported by my own midwives during my pregnancy, birth and postpartum periods.

Please, vote YES on HB 2845 so all Oregonians can access midwifery care.

Thank you,

Mirra Nerenberg, LDM, CPM, IBCLC
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