

RE: House Bill 2388

February 19,2021

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am the mother of an 8-month-old daughter, Madeleine, and I am writing to express my support of House Bill 2388 and am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2388 to improve access to midwifery care.

I received excellent prenatal care from midwives who, by the nature of their profession were able to support, nurture, and really get to know me during my pregnancy. In addition to being completely up to date on the latest in western medicine, they were well versed in complementary care such as advising proper nutrition, high quality prenatal vitamins, specific exercise and stretches, and were totally in tune with my mental and emotional health to ensure I had a safe, supported, and healthy pregnancy. Thanks to their incredible care, I gave birth to a healthy baby girl in June 2020.

A CNM delivered my baby and provided a safe delivery and a positive birth experience. In my opinion, all normal pregnancies without complications should be delivered by nurse midwives!

My postnatal care was exemplary and frankly the best part of my whole pregnancy and birth experience. My CNM came to my house for the first 4 post-birth visits protecting my baby and me from potential covid exposure. Additionally, the traditional OB system only checks the mother 6-8 weeks after birth. My midwife checked me at one-, two-, and four-weeks post birth ensuring I was healing properly and addressing any concerns I had.

I want all women and babies to receive the excellent care I received. Unfortunately, not all insurers cover giving birth in birth centers or home midwifery care. HB 2388 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 2388 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.

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