Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a mother of two in Medford and had both my babies at home with midwives. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2388 to improve access to midwifery care.

Midwives provide excellent and safe care and allow families to birth in the comfort and privacy in their own homes. For low risk pregnancies this decreases the chances of unnecessary interventions and creates an environment that promotes the natural birth process.

Midwifery care provides large cost savings to insurers and health systems but many families still can't access midwifery care because about half of Oregon insurers (both private and OHP) provide limited or no coverage for birth center or home birth midwifery care. Increasing midwifery coverage benefits all parties by increasing access.

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.

Regards, Ashley Thomas, BSN, RN-BC

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