

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a mother of three in Gladstone and had my third baby at home with midwives. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2388 to improve access to midwifery care.

I am so thankful for my homebirth and had a wonderful experience with Unfurling Birth midwives. The big day was peaceful and uncomplicated even though we were in the middle of a pandemic and wildfire smoke filled the air. I would not have been as relaxed had I been in a hospital and I loved not having to take risk of exposure to Covid by being in a hospital setting.

My midwives provided excellent and safe care, I was able to develop a relationship of trust with them for the 9 months of my pregnancy. They also came to provide postnatal and newborn care in my home ensuring I did not have to travel with a newborn to medical facilities. The entire experience was beautiful, empowering, and healing after a previous hospital birth trauma.

I want every pregnant person to have the opportunity to enjoy midwifery care in their home or birth facility without hindrance due to out-of-pocket cost or insurance company limitations and prohibitions.

Please vote yes on HB 2388. Thank you for the work you do to support the health of mothers and babies.

With deepest gratitude,

Kimberly Kalu
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Birthplace of Oyidiya Kalu born Sept 2020