

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a midwife in Portland. Please vote yes on HB 2388 so that the mothers I work with can have insurance coverage for the safe and cost-effective care I provide.

Midwives provide excellent and safe care. We are well trained and provide thorough and individualized care to our clients. We have strong community standards and work hard to meet the varied needs of our clients.

Additionally, 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. As midwives we often have to accept less than our full fee to be able to serve those in our community who are not able to afford their out of pocket costs for our care. This often leads to people being forced to chose a hospital based birth option so that their care would be paid for.

My Practice has chosen to continue to accept OHP even though we receive HALF of our normal fee. We do this because we believe that people should have access to the kind of care and the location of birth that they choose, regardless of their income level. This puts a large burden on midwives in Oregon, and often makes it difficult for us to pay ourselves for the time and care we give our clients. We want everyone to have choice, and every midwife to be paid for their work.

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.

Jaime Lefcovich LDM, CPM