

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a mother of two daughters, who were born at home with licensed midwives. I am also a licensed midwife myself, and have been practicing in Southern Oregon since 2010. I am writing in support of HB 2388 and ask you to vote yes on the bill.

As a mother, I received holistic and comprehensive care from midwives. Many reasons motivated my home birth choice: I wanted to reduce my chances of having a C-section as a first time mother, I wanted to have choice and education as primary aspects of my care, and I wanted providers who could hold the bounds of safety and risk assessment, while still offering the midwifery model of care and natural birth options. As a mother, I did not believe my choices should be limited by insurance companies, especially given that midwifery care is cheaper to insurance companies and to government.

As a midwife and small business owner, I support increasing access to midwifery care. Families in my community who want to access midwifery care and have health insurance, should be able to use the insurance they pay for to hire the licensed provider of their choice. OHLA provides midwives with regulations and laws that help keep midwifery care a safe and reasonable option. Voting for this bill increases access to this safe and reasonable option, and Oregon families want the option.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica Ruediger, LDM, CPM

Talent, Oregon