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Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

We are social workers who have focused on perinatal mental health for the past 25 years. We are writing in support of bill HB2388 which will improve access to Midwifery care.

We work with many Midwives in our practice, and we witness the level of expertise, skill and connection that they bring to their patients, insuring that women receive caring support during and after their pregnancies. Their skillful medical care is often a factor that helps reduce anxiety during pregnancy, birth trauma, and postpartum mood disorders.

We also see clients who were not able to access midwifery care for themselves during pregnancy and birth despite wanting this type of care. Many women who would prefer to see a midwife cannot due to the financial costs. This creates an inequity in perinatal health care that the legislature now has the opportunity to correct.

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. Women choosing their medical provider for their birth is important if we as a community are committed to healthy births, and strong families.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 2388 as it is imperative that women have the right to choose their healthcare.

Thank you,

Gaby Donnell LCSW

Laurie Cox, LCSW

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