

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2388. As a high-risk obstetrician who works to improve safety and reduce health disparities across Oregon, I know that most births in our state are low risk and suitable for delivery in a number of health care settings, attended by a variety of different provider types. There are a number of regulations in place to ensure provider competency and safety through licensing and state regulations, and this is not limited to hospital-based settings. This bill isn't about licensing or regulations. It is directed at making sure that care delivered in our state, by licensed providers, is covered equitably. It's fair pay for equal work.

This bill doesn't change the safety of birthing in our state. It does allow for increased choice among the regulated and licensed delivery care providers and delivery locations in our state. Without the changes proposed in this bill, even many insured individuals are shut out from making fair comparisons and autonomous decisions about how and where they chose to receive maternity care and deliver their baby.

Attending deliveries remains a great privilege and the magnitude of the event for individuals I care for and their families is humbling. The cultural, familial, and personal elements that shape expectations and experiences are deep and formed years before the delivery event. Falling short of those expectations because of financial restrictions and payer limitations is unfair and can have a lasting impact and individuals and their family. The state already licenses and regulates these providers and birthing facilities. Paying them for their work should be something we all agree on.

Sincerely,

Rachel Pilliod, MD
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