

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a current Family Support Specialist, mother of one child, and former midwife. I'm writing to ask that you vote yes on HB2388 to improve access to midwifery care.

I planned to have my child at home five years ago but ended up transferring to the hospital due to preterm rupture of membranes. This was the best decision for us despite the fact that my child contracted MRSA at the hospital resulting in life long disabilities.

I know that perinatal care with LDMs/CPMs is safe and supportive. I know that it provides huge cost savings to health systems and insurers. I have every intention of utilizing out of hospital midwives for future pregnancies. However, my current insurer, Kaiser, will not cover this cost despite it being a safe, legal, and preferred option. This may become a barrier to my access. I know it's a barrier for many of the families I serve as a Family Support Specialist in the early childhood department at Impact NW.

In closing I ask that you please vote YES on HB2388 so that the Oregon families I work with and I may have access to midwives that provide excellent, safe, and cost effective perinatal care.

Thanks for your time,Chelsea Campbell-Martin (she/her)
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