

Submitter: Brian Ettling  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB3592

I want to thank the Chief Sponsors of this bill Representative Hudson, Senator Gorsek, Representatives Ruiz and Helfrich, as well as the sponsors Representative Nelson, Tran, and Senator Patterson with this bill to try to stop Legacy with their intentions to shutter birth center at Mount Hood Medical Center. This medical center provides a huge and vital health service to east Multnomah County and the surrounding area. I was shocked to learn from the medical staff and community members attending this town hall that this closure would be a big blow for quality healthcare in east Multnomah County and the surrounding area. Closing this birthing center would have a very negative impact on low income and BIPOC women in East Multnomah County and the surrounding area who would depend on this birthing center during their final and very vulnerable final stages of pregnancy.

Hearing about Legacy wanting to close The Birth Center at Mount Hood Medical Center was very disturbing news for me. Recently, I have been researching the genealogy of my family. During this research and while talking with my mother, I learned that my great grandmother died during childbirth while giving her to her youngest child. My grandfather saw his mother die during complications from childbirth when he was just 6 years old. Therefore, he never really had a chance to get to know his mother during his life. The same thing happened to my great grandmother's sister, my great great aunt. She died in childbirth and her newborn child did not survive either. Granted, my great grandmother died in 1906 and modern medicine has come a long way since then. However, the key is transporting women to the nearest hospital when they or their children are experiencing life threatening complications.

According to a January 30, 2023 article in the American Journal of Managed Care, "US Has Highest Infant, Maternal Mortality Rates Despite the Most Health Care Spending." Closing The Birthing Center at Mt. Hood Medical Center will not help improve the dismal standing of the U.S. with the highest infant and maternal mortality rates. If anything, it will make things worse for the U.S, for Oregon and especially for east Multnomath County. Women and children, especially BIPOC and low income women, could lose their lives or suffer life altering issues if this Birth Center is closed.

I urge all Oregon Legislators to support this legislation.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Brian Ettling