

Submitter: Lori RN  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB3592

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Bresse-Iverson and Kropf, for the record my name is Lori and I'm testifying in favor of House bill 3592. I believe this bill is critical to ensuring access to care for all pregnant people because of what I've seen working as a nurse in family birth at Mt. Hood for the last 23 years.

Mt. Hood is located in the center of Gresham, the 4th largest city in Oregon and serves a much larger population that comes from a distance to reach a hospital. When a patient sees a blue 'H' sign on the freeway it would be assumed that they could get maternity care there if they had a pressing need while passing through town. We have many patients who are just passing through who would need to be seen sooner than driving to a hospital where they may encounter traffic or an additional 30+ minutes in travel time. Many times, patients don't have the opportunity of transportation or money for driving the additional distance.

Maternal Morbidity is increasing in the US. With limited access to care in East county these numbers will only increase. The emergency room staff is highly trained staff, but not in OB care that we have been trained in, we practice daily, and provide a high level of care for these patients on a daily basis. Also the emergency room is overburdened with patients as it is and currently seeing patients in the waiting area, hallways, and other non-traditional areas.

Not having the birth center at Mt. Hood is a huge disservice to all in the community and could lead to poor outcomes for both moms and the unborn.

I believe strongly that this situation would have been prevented had an equity analysis, as outlined in the HB 3592, been completed. Thank you