

# OMC

## Oregon Midwifery Council

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[www.OregonMidwiferyCouncil.org](http://www.OregonMidwiferyCouncil.org)

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April 25, 2023

Dear Chair Patterson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Silke Akerson and I am the executive director of the Oregon Midwifery Council. The Oregon Midwifery Council represents midwives in Oregon and promotes patient-centered and evidence-based maternity care for all mothers and birthing people in our state. I am asking for your support of HB 2535 A to establish a doula program and provide humane treatment of pregnant and birthing people incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

The improvements provided for in HB 2535 A would provide basic support, safety, and dignity to individuals going through the challenging experience of incarceration during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. The changes the bill makes are necessary to improve maternal and infant health. Some of the changes, such as accommodation for breast feeding and providing breast milk to the infant will have health benefits for the lifetime of the infants born to incarcerated mothers. This bill is essential for the ethical treatment of incarcerated mothers and their babies.

Please vote yes on HB 2535 A to improve maternal and infant health for incarcerated families in Oregon. Thank you for the work you do to support the health of Oregon mothers and babies.

Thank you for your consideration,

Silke Akerson, MPH, CPM, LDM  
Oregon Midwifery Council

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