



Disability
Rights
Oregon

TO: Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
FROM: Ben Gurewitz
DATE: February 7, 2025
RE: SB 692 - Support

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ben Gurewitz, and I am a Public Policy Advocate at Disability Rights Oregon. I am pleased to offer testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 692.

Disability Rights Oregon is the state's federally designated Protection and Advocacy System, authorized by Congress to protect, advocate for, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities. Our mission is to advance policies that ensure Oregonians with disabilities can live, work, and participate fully in their communities while reaching their fullest potential.

SB 692 is a critical step forward in improving health outcomes for babies, children and mothers by expanding access to maternal care through broader health insurance coverage for doulas. Doulas provide continuous emotional and physical support during childbirth, reducing stress and fostering a more positive birthing experience. Research shows that doula support leads to shorter labor, fewer medical interventions, and higher overall satisfaction with the birth process. Expanding insurance coverage for doulas will have a lasting, positive impact on families across Oregon for generations to come.

Additionally, SB 692 strengthens support during the postpartum period, ensuring that mothers experiencing temporary or long-term symptoms of depression receive the care they need. By expanding access to these critical services, this bill helps new mothers take care of their own well-being so they can best support the health and development of their children.

Disability Rights Oregon strongly urges your support of SB 692

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws,

¹ See ORS 192.517.

investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and “pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies”.² We are also mandated to “educate policymakers” on matters related to people with disabilities.³

If you have any questions regarding DRO’s position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him bgurewitz@droregon.org

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).