

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1167 – MOMNIBUS "1st Thousand Days"

Honorable Senators and Staff,

My name is Mary Cadien and I am a resident of Multnomah County. I am writing to express my full support for SB1167, which proposes to allocate critical funding and resources to support families and ensure the healthy development of children in Oregon during the crucial first 1,000 days of life.

I was privileged enough to be able to focus on my maternal and newborn health. I cherished every minute of that first 2 years and my pregnancy and put all my time and effort into making sure my babies had every bit of cushion and love in life I could afford. Mothers in poverty feel exactly the same about their children that I do. They are our world, our hearts and our future hopes. Women who are not coming from a place of privilege can't provide this cushion of love as easily with the distractions of stress and poverty without our help. The children that are born to them deserve to have as much of an advantage as my privileged children do and should not start out their lives with the handicap that poverty and disadvantaged circumstances hands to them. Those baby's futures and outcomes are just as if not more so important than mine.

This bill provides vital funding through the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for distribution to seven key entities across the state. These investments will strengthen early childhood development, maternal health, and family support programs, addressing disparities and ensuring equitable access to care. SB1167 supports the development of a **birthing village and critical care services for getting the right start for families where care deserts exist.**

Funding for the first 1,000 days of a child's life (from conception to age two) is crucial because **it's a critical period for brain development, laying the foundation for lifelong health and well-being, and addressing issues like malnutrition and poverty.**

These investments are essential for improving maternal and infant health outcomes, reducing disparities, and ensuring families receive the support they need. As a (parent, doula, healthcare provider, community advocate—if applicable), I have seen firsthand how critical these resources are in shaping the health and well-being of Oregon's children and families.

Studies show that countries that fail to invest in the well-being of women and children in the first 1,000 days lose billions of dollars to lower economic productivity and higher health costs. It is why several of the world's leading economists have called for greater investments in the nutrition and well-being of mothers, babies, and toddlers as a way to create brighter and more prosperous futures for us all.

[Explore the Research](#)

I urge you to support SB1167 and make this investment in our state's future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mary Cadien