

February 4, 2026

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

*Re: SB 1568 – Relating to perinatal services*

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

My name is Ellie Mulpeter, and I am the Director of the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice (ALPP). ALPP operates the Certified Lactation Counselor® (CLC®) certification program. Our mission is to promote breastfeeding and equitable access to lactation care and services. We do so by identifying qualified lactation care professionals through training and competency verification. I am writing to you today to express our support of SB 1568, relating to perinatal services.

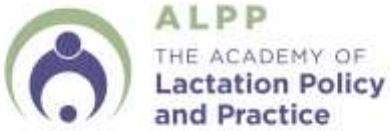
As of today, there are **138 CLCs** providing lactation support and care to families in Oregon and more than 23,000 CLCs practicing nationwide. There is a consensus that breastfeeding provides significant benefits to mothers and babies as well as significant health care savings. There is a further consensus that breastfeeding rates are lower than optimal. Currently, 84.1% of women initiate breastfeeding, but many don't continue for as long or as exclusively as they'd hoped. In fact, by 6 months postpartum, only 58.3% were breastfeeding, and at 1 year postpartum, only 35.3% were breastfeeding.<sup>1</sup> There is a further consensus that knowledgeable and competent lactation support is needed to increase rates of breastfeeding.

We support the inclusion of various types of lactation support providers in SB 1568 to make lactation care and support more accessible. All providers should be reimbursed for their work by both private and public insurance programs to make services more accessible for families, and to support the workforce of lactation care providers in Oregon. With respect to CLCs, we specifically support:

- Expanding insurance coverage to include the services of lactation counselors;
- Requiring that coverage is provided without prior authorization, a referral from another healthcare provider, approval or signature from another health care provider or supervision by another healthcare provider; and
- Establishing voluntary registration for lactation counselors.

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. National Immunization Surveys 2018-2019, among children born in 2017. (2019). Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/facts.html>.



We would hope that, in establishing a voluntary registration, the Oregon Health Authority will consider ALPP's continuing education and scope of practice for CLCs as a basis for registration requirements. I have included links to ALPP's requirements below. We would welcome any opportunity to support you as this bill moves forward. We appreciate the work of this Committee. I am available to discuss further should you have any questions.

**CLC® Scope of Practice:** <https://www.alpp.org/pdf/CLC-Scope-of-Practice.pdf>

**CLC® Recertification Handbook:** <https://www.alpp.org/pdf/CLC-RecertHandbook.pdf>

Sincerely,

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