



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

SB 1568 - Momnibus FollowUp

Chair, Vice Chairs and members of the committee my name is Representative Lamar Wise, and I represent House District 48, serving communities in outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County. I rise in strong support of Senate Bill 1568.

At its core, this bill is about ensuring that every Oregon family, regardless of income, zip code, race, or insurance type, has access to the support they need during pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period.

We know that Oregon continues to face unacceptable disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes. Black, Indigenous, rural, and low-income families experience higher rates of complications, preterm birth, and maternal morbidity. These are not random outcomes, they are rooted in gaps in access, cultural connection, and continuity of care.

SB 1568 strengthens and modernizes our perinatal support system in several important ways.

First, it establishes clear minimum coverage standards for doula services in both the Oregon Health Plan and commercial health benefit plans. It guarantees at least 12 visits or 24 hours of support, in addition to labor and delivery, and allows for additional hours based on need. Just as importantly, it removes unnecessary barriers: no referral requirements, no supervision mandates, no red tape that keeps families from accessing care.

Second, the bill ensures access to lactation counselors for OHP members and those with private coverage. Breastfeeding and lactation support are critical to maternal and infant health, reducing infection, improving bonding, and lowering long-term health risks for both parent and child. Yet too many families struggle to access culturally competent support when they need it most. This bill addresses that gap.

Third, SB 1568 supports workforce sustainability. It requires regular review of reimbursement rates to ensure that being a doula or lactation counselor is financially viable, particularly for culturally specific providers who reflect and understand the communities they serve. Access is meaningless if the workforce cannot survive.

Fourth, it creates the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative at OHSU to coordinate statewide quality improvement efforts and develop policy recommendations to strengthen maternal and infant health. This ensures we are not just funding services, we are building a system that continuously improves outcomes.

And finally, this bill aligns both Medicaid and private insurance coverage, so families do not experience different standards of care based on the card in their wallet.

We also know that these services are cost-effective. Evidence consistently shows that doula support is associated with lower cesarean rates, fewer complications, improved breastfeeding success, and better birth outcomes. When we invest upstream, we prevent costly downstream interventions.

SB 1568 is a thoughtful, evidence-based step toward reducing disparities, strengthening culturally specific care, and supporting families during one of the most vulnerable times in their lives.

Healthy births build healthy families. Healthy families build strong communities.

I urge your support of SB 1568.