

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Karissa Dobrzanski and I am a wife and mother of two boys in Portland. I'm also a CPA and business owner. My first son was born at Providence hospital and my second son was born at home under midwifery care. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2845 to improve access to midwifery care.

I am so thankful to have the care I received under amazing midwives while I was pregnant with our second son. My first sons birth was traumatic for me. I feel like I received unnecessary interventions and pressure to have a baby on the hospitals schedule. I also hemorrhaged, and feel the hospital did not perform the due diligence in my scenario because, what I believe, is short staff and nurse staff turnover throughout the night/day of my first son's birth.

My second son was born at home under the care of glow midwifery. I felt so safe and cared for throughout the whole term of my second pregnancy. The knowledge and professionalism of midwives, along with cost effectiveness, is something insurance companies should want to provide. My second son was born at home, naturally, no interventions, within ~2 hours of our midwives arrival. They monitored the baby and I every 10 minutes, were supplied with all necessary equipment you would find in an ambulance, we had a plan weeks ahead of time for reasons to transport to hospital (i.e. fever, baby in distress, Mother's intuition, etc.). I truly feel having a baby in a comfortable environment with those you trust makes a tremendous difference in child birth. I also believe it's important for women to have options and the availability to midwifery care.

HB 2845 would increase access to midwifery care for Oregon families whether they choose to give birth in hospital, birth center, or home with Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, Certified Nurse Midwives, or Naturopathic Physicians.

Please vote yes on HB 2845 so that all Oregon families have access to midwifery care. Thank you for the work you do to support the health of mothers and babies.

All the best,

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