

Dear Chair Salinas and members of the House Health Committee,

I am a mother of one daughter in Eugene, and could not have had such a successful birth without my midwives. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on House Bill 2845 to support access to midwifery care in Oregon.

Midwives provide phenomenal care to the whole family. They are conservative in my experience and many of my friends experience in that they are well trained in their work as well as when to know when a transfer is important and to make sure it is done in a timely matter in order that the birth does not turn into an emergency.

Many Oregon families cannot access midwifery care bc the majority of insurance providers, both Medicaid and private do not cover midwifery care at all. Hospitals would save money and space if more families could access this kind of care without having to pay so much out of pocket.

My midwives provides us excellent care, everything from the amount of time spent with us throughout my daughters pregnancy, labor and post partum, to the information they provided through their educational knowledge, books, and videos. An obstetrician would not spend nearly the time with any patient. This relationship is of upmost importance in the midwife patient relationship because labor is much smoother if a woman and her family feel comfortable and safe. Not to mention the kind of hands on care a woman and family receives post partum when so many women struggle with the blues or depression or just lacking skills on how to care for an infant in their own home. Midwives make all of this easier and help families thrive!

In closing, please vote yes on HB 2845 and give all Oregon families whether birthing at home, at the birth center, or hospital access to midwifery care. Thank you for your hard work in supporting families in Oregon!

Sincerely,
Kate Hirst
27817 Royal Ave
Eugene Or 97402

Sent from my iPhone. I apologize for any errors.