

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Megan and I am writing to you today to urge you to support HB 2845 and vote yes. I am a mother of two from Salem and I used midwives and out of hospital births with both of my children. I always recommend using midwives to all of my friends. Midwives provide excellent, personal and safe care to their clients. Having a home birth is also very beneficial to the mother as they are able to give birth in a safe, relaxing, familiar atmosphere with caring and professional midwives by their side supporting them through the birth the entire time.

I believe all women should be allowed access to midwifery care without having to pay out of pocket because it isn't covered by their insurance. Midwifery care provides large cost savings to insurers and health systems but many families still can't access midwifery care because about half of Oregon insurers (both private and OHP) provide limited or no coverage for birth center or home birth midwifery care.

This bill 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.

~Megan