

2/26/19

RE: In Favor of HB 2845

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a small business owner and have been practicing midwifery since 2010. I am also a mother who had both of my children at home under the care of Licenced Direct Entry Midwives. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2845 to improve access to midwifery care. Please vote yes on HB 2845 so that the mothers I work with can have insurance coverage for the safe and cost-effective care I provide.

Every week, I have to discuss the financial burden that currently hinders mother's choices about which type of care providers they would like to choose for their maternity care. Women are paying monthly premiums for health care policies that provide limited or no coverage for out-of-hospital birth, even though their desired care providers are state licensed. Midwifery care provides a large cost savings to insurers and health systems. Sometimes, I see women struggling to choose to pay out-of-pocket for services such as bloodwork or ultrasounds, which are recommended for good care, but not covered when licensed midwives order the procedures. Other women, who qualify for OHP, are having trouble accessing midwifery care, because OHP has limited the scope of practice for LDMs, even though our licensing protocols are sufficient to properly screen for home birth candidacy.

Please vote yes on HB 2845 so that all Oregon families have access to midwifery care. Licensed Direct Entry Midwives are licensed providers through the state of Oregon; insurance should cover our care. Thank you for the work you do to support the health of mothers and babies.

Sincerely,

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