

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I'm writing to ask for your support on HB 2845. I'm a homebirth midwife in Portland and this bill will go a long ways to supporting my clients in accessing the care they want, as well as supporting me as a small business owner.

Throughout my time as a student midwife and practicing on my own, I have personally seen the impact midwifery care can have on birth in hospitals, at birth centers, and at home. The individualized care midwives bring to women is cost effective, it is safe, and we have great outcomes. On top of that, we have very high rates of consumer satisfaction. Over and over I have seen women empowered by making their own birthing choices, having a low risk of cesarean delivery, and having high rates of successful breastfeeding. It is always heartbreaking when people cannot access the care they desire simply due to finances because their insurance won't cover it. I don't think money should ever be the reason to choose where to have a baby, especially since midwifery care would be a significant SAVINGS to the insurance company. The average homebirth in my practice easily costs less than half of what a hospital birth costs.

Please vote yes on HB 2845! This bill will help Oregonians better access care from any type of midwife, in any setting they desire. Thank you so much for supporting growing families in Oregon!

-Kelsey A. Fisher, MSM, LDM, CPM  
Midwife at Bridge Town Midwifery, Inc