

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a midwife and small business owner in Portland and have been in practice for 13 years. I've attended over 800 deliveries in continuity of care, and continue to find such purpose in serving my community. 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. 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. 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.

I was also a homebirth mom in 1997, 2001, and 2002. I received thorough, loving and extensive care from my midwives throughout my childbearing years and look back at that time as being responsible for my empowered start as a young mom, as well as my career. Had I continued with state recommended random OB care through OHP referral, I'd never had the opportunity to learn about the evidence based option for low risk women in pregnancy through CPM's which served my family and community and I perfectly.

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.

Sincerely,

Melissa Gordon-Magnus, CPM/LDM/LM

Rose City Midwifery

AND

Mother to Willow Gordon-Magnus, Alder Piper, and Madrona Piper