

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a first time mom living in Portland, and had my son safely at home with midwives. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2845 to improve access to midwifery care.

Midwifery care provides large cost savings to insurers and health systems, but many families still cannot access this care due to insurers providing limited or no coverage for birth center or home birth midwifery care. This affected me personally, as my insurance did not cover any part of my home birth, even though I had a very healthy, low risk pregnancy. I cannot stress enough how provided for and safe I felt during the entirety of my pregnancy and birthing experience.

Women should be able to have the birthing experience of their choosing, however, given the lack of funding by insurance companies, many women are put in a situation lacking the choice. Passing this bill would mean that midwifery care becomes more accessible to women from all walks of life. I feel very strongly that this bill should be passed for many reasons, but mostly because of the wonderful experience I had. I was in labor in a familiar environment, monitored throughout the entire process, cared for with love, respect, and encouragement, from an extremely professional, knowledgeable and experienced team of midwives. I could not have asked for a better experience overall and know that more women would love to have the option to seek this kind of care as well.

Please vote yes on HB 2845 so that all Oregon families have access to midwifery care. Thank you for the work that you do to support the health of mothers and babies.

Torie Hax, Clinical Nutritionist
2834 NE 56th Ave
Portland, OR 97213