

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a licensed midwife and small business owner in Portland and have been in practice for 7 years. I am writing to ask you to please vote yes on HB 2845, so that the parents I work with can have insurance coverage for the safe and cost-effective care that I provide.

Midwifery care has been shown to be safe, and when parents have the option, many would choose midwifery care. Research indicates that increased access to midwifery care is correlated with improved outcomes for families, including reduced interventions and increased breastfeeding.

I have had many families interview with my practice, and after finding out who their insurance would cover, choose to have a hospital based provider who is covered by their insurance, even though they would have rather chosen an out-of-hospital based midwife as their provider. Many are forced to choose a hospital based provider for insurance/ financial reasons, even though it is not their first choice.

Midwifery care is also cost effective, and would provide a large cost savings to both insurers and families. Many families cannot access midwifery care in Oregon, because many insurers 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 a hospital, birth center, or at home with Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, Certified Nurse Midwives, or Naturopathic Physicians.

Again, I urge you to please vote yes on HB 2845, so that all Oregon families have access to midwifery care. Thank you for all the work you do to support the health of families in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Amy Jo Rist, CPM, LDM, LM
6 N Bryant St
Portland, OR 97217

Amy Jo Rist, CPM, LDM, LM
Vivante Midwifery & Women's Health
503-652-8076

DISCLAIMER:

This email and any files transmitted with it are intended for the sole use of the addressee, and may contain information that is confidential and legally privileged. Dissemination, distribution, or copying of this email or the information contained herein by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error, please immediately advise the sender by reply email and delete this email.