

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee, my name is Riley, mother of a 7 month old son, from Silverton, Oregon.
I had an at home birth with the help of my midwives, my angels. I am writing to ask you to vote 'yes' on HB 2388 to improve access to midwifery care in Oregon.

Many mothers in Oregon don't have access to midwifery care because half of Oregon insurers make it a challenge, if at all possible, to have a home birth or attend a birth center.

I searched for many months, with dozens of phone calls, to find a midwife or birth center that would take my insurance; I had OHP at the time. If they did accept it, they were full; Covid has just hit. I was very stressed and desperate to find a midwife who could help me have the home birth I had been imagining. One of the last phone calls I ever made, changed my life at the time, it gave me hope. Two midwives from Portland, my angels, were able to accept me in. The birth of my son would not have been the experience it was without them, without the ability to birth in the comfort of my own home. I will never forget that experience. I will never forget those midwives; I am forever grateful.

I ask you, plead, that you vote yes on HB 2388, so that all Oregon mothers have access to midwifery care. Thank you for the work you do to help our Oregon families.

Sincerely,

Riley