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Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a first-time pregnant mother based in Portland. My partner and I have chosen to utilize a midwifery for the homebirth of our son. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2388 to improve access to midwifery care. Here are a few reasons why I am asking you to vote YES.

1. Midwives provide excellent and safe care
 - Our midwives are an incredible support system for us as first time parents trying to navigate the safety of our birth plan at home due to Covid 19. We have found it to be a personalized experience filled with assurances that this is the right decision for our family.

2. 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.
 - My partner and I have United Healthcare and because this midwifery is out-of-network the entire balance due to the Midwifery is going to our very large out-of-network deductible. If access was broadened, they could have been in-network. In network would have given us an opportunity to extend the care post-natal and keep our care consistent post birth.

3. HB 2388 would increase access to midwifery care for Oregon families whether they choose to give birth in a hospital, birth center, or home with Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, Certified Nurse Midwives, or Naturopathic Physicians.

Thank you very much for considering YES on HB 2388.

Sincerely,
Heidi K Lovig

Founder of Heidi Ho Foods, Inc
CEO