

FROM THE DESK OF

Brooke Bina, RN, MSN, CNM

February 16, 2021

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife who manages operations at a freestanding birth center in Portland and I have been in practice for 11 years. Please vote **yes** on HB 2388 so that the clients I work with can have appropriate insurance coverage for the safe and highly cost-effective care I provide.

Midwives provide excellent and safe care, and as a CABC-accredited freestanding birth center operations manager and insurance contracting liaison, I am able to both see the insurance barriers faced by patients and attest to the cost-savings that midwifery care would provide to insurers if they covered our services more fully.

For the birth of my own child I was unable to utilize my own facility and midwifery providers because of insurance barriers, and by comparing benefits and allowed amounts was also able to see that my insurer paid much more for my low-risk uneventful hospital birth than it would have if it covered a birth center birth.

HB 2388 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 am confident that improved access to midwifery care would lead to improved outcomes and cost-savings for our community.

Please vote **yes** on HB 2388 so that all Oregon families have access to midwifery care. Thank you for the work you do to support the health of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Brooke Bina, RN, MSN, CNM