

Feb 23, 2021

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a licensed midwife and have owned a private practice in Northeast Oregon's Wallowa and Union Counties for 4 years. I am also a mother and had my daughter at home with a midwife. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2388 to improve access to midwifery care and so that my community and the mothers I work with can have insurance coverage for the safe and cost-effective care midwives provide.

I am the only licensed midwife in Eastern Oregon and I frequently have interviews with clients that want an option and choice in their birth. However due to lack of insurance coverage many of them are not able to hire me or have the choices they want without undue economic hardship. Please help by voting to secure access to midwifery care and choice.

Midwifery care is professional and safe and midwives are well trained and adhere to OARs, community standards and up to date evidence and research. The choice of where to birth should not be limited only to those affluent enough to pay out of pocket. I had to pay for my birth entirely out of pocket as the provider that traveled to Eastern Oregon was not covered by my insurance. Systemic oppression of choice and limiting of family healthcare options should not be tolerated in Oregon.

Thank you for the work you do to support the health of mothers and babies and please vote yes on HB 2388 so that all Oregon families have access to midwifery care.

Sincerely,
Eleanor Hawkins CPM, LDM, IBCLC

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