

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a mother from Portland and a licensed healthcare provider who has chosen a home birth for my second child after learning about the many benefits of home birth and the exceptional, personalized, evidence-based care that midwives provide. My experiences so far have supported this.

Though midwifery care provides large cost savings to insurers and health systems, I was disappointed and disheartened to learn that my insurance company does not cover home birth. The out-of-pocket expense for our family is significant; 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 care.

Please vote yes on HB 2388 so that all Oregon families have access to midwifery care and birthing choices are more equitable.

Thank you very much for the work you do to support the health of mothers, babies, their families and their communities.

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