

February 23, 2021

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am a mother and Oregon Licensed Acupuncturist specializing in pregnancy care and pediatrics. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2388 to improve access to midwifery care for many of the families I work with.

Nearly nine years ago, a few months before my 40th birthday, my son was born at home with the help of skilled and experienced Naturopath Midwives. It was a safe, reasonable choice for my low-risk pregnancy. I am extremely fortunate and could afford to pay out of pocket for the birth experience that I felt was right for me and my family. My son was born in the calm, peaceful warmth of my own home and his birth was completely without the need for outside medical intervention.

On a more practical level, as a small business owner and Acupuncturist in practice since 2005, over the years I have seen so many people who have chosen a hospital birth over a birth center or home birth ONLY because of finances. They didn't see birth center or home birth as a viable option for their family because their insurance didn't cover any options for out of hospital birth. Birthing at home or in a birth center is the most desirable and safest option for many birthing people, especially marginalized families, families of color, gay, lesbian and transgender individuals.

I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 2388 to improve access to midwifery care so that the families I work with can have insurance coverage for the safe and cost-effective care they deserve and the birthing experience they desire! All Oregon families should have access to midwifery care.

Thank you for the work you do to support the health of mothers and babies!

Respectfully,

Annabelle Snow, LAc
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