

Dear Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Committee,

I am an ER Registered Nurse pursuing my master's degree, and a mother of two children whom I birthed at home with a midwife. I am writing to ask that you vote YES on HB 2388 to improve access to midwifery care.

As a healthcare professional, I strongly support evidence-based practices (EBP) and a patient's right to choose the modality of care that suits them best. Midwifery practice has been shown time and time again to be as safe as care under an obstetrician, with a significantly lower use of interventions and lower cesarean rates (Souter et al., 2019) -- both of which increase cost, may lead to further interventions, and can be emotionally traumatizing to new mothers.

In my work in the ER, I understand that there are times when medical intervention is paramount for the well-being of the mother and child. But in low-risk pregnancies, women should have midwifery care available to them without insurance companies refusing to pay.

Birth is as sacred a moment as death. Many of us would like to die peacefully at home, surrounded by those we love. So why do we deny that same right at birth?

Please vote YES on HB 2388 so that midwifery care can be an option for all families in Oregon. Thank you for supporting the health and well-being of families.

Mischa Fiske, RN, BSN

#### Reference

Souter, V., Nethery, E., Kopas, M. L., Wurz, H., Sitcov, K., & Caughey, A. B. (2019). Comparison of Midwifery and Obstetric Care in Low-Risk Hospital Births. *Obstetrics and gynecology*, 134(5), 1056–1065. <https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000003521>