

Letter in Support of HB 2388
Thursday, February 25, 2021

Dear Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Salinas and Hayden and members of the House Health Care Committee,

My name is Nancy MacMorris-Adix. I am a certified nurse-midwife with over 35 years of experience in maternity care, delivering babies mostly in hospitals in the mid-Willamette Valley. I also delivered babies in birth centers in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas at the beginning of my career. I gave birth to my first child in a free standing birth center while in Texas.

I became involved in working toward the passage of HB 2388 in its earlier edition in the 2019 session when I was chair of both the Oregon Nurses Association Cabinet on Health Policy and the Oregon Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives Legislative and Advocacy Committee. Since the 2019 session, we have worked hard to broaden the coalition of support which now includes:

Oregon Midwifery Council
Oregon Nurses Association
Nurse Practitioners of Oregon
The Oregon Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives
The Association of Black Nurses of Oregon
The Oregon Public Health Association
Our Community Birth Center
Corvallis Birth and Women's Wellness Center
Forward Together

I have long been involved in the government relations arena of the ONA, and I believe that HB2388 is a milestone in uniting the midwifery community with nurses, nurse practitioners, public health advocates and organizations concerned about equitable access and outcomes for BIPOC families. My transition to strongly advocating for community birth options by all types of midwives has been long and, unfortunately, slow. Like many others, I let experiences or attitudes that were based on rumor or misinformation cloud my opinions.

Today, I can whole-heartedly and without reservation, endorse the work of my LDM and ND colleagues who are experts in community birth. Their educational preparation is very specific to community birth. Their certifying exam is specific to community birth. Their outcomes as evidenced by Oregon Birth record data that is reported by **planned place of birth**, demonstrates their excellent outcomes.

I am urging you to support HB2388 and to not follow in my footsteps of letting misinformation cloud your judgement of the excellent care provided by those midwives attending births in the community. Midwifery care in all setting is demonstrated to have better outcomes at lower

cost and with higher patient satisfaction. It is time that we assured that all families had access to the full range of care and the freedom to select the care that is most comfortable to them without an enormous out of pocket cost.

Sincerely,
Nancy MacMorris-Adix, RN, CNM, MN
Retired
Salem, Oregon