



February 25, 2021

The Honorable Rachel Prusak Chair, House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

RE: Opposition to House Bill 2388

Dear Chair Prusak and members of the House Committee on Health Care,

Kaiser Permanente is an integrated health care delivery system that provides connected and coordinated care to over 600,000 members in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our integrated model is unique. We are composed of a health care delivery system that includes Northwest Permanente physicians, hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies. We also have a health insurance company which has allowed us to construct a unique model of healthcare with internal financial incentives that focus on prevention, population health and clinical excellence. Collaboration among our providers creates a seamless experience for our members and delivers the highest quality care that is focused on the long-term health of our members.

As a physician practicing Obstetrics and Gynecology with Kaiser Permanente for almost 20 years, I can share from experience that Kaiser Permanente's long track record of success in delivering high quality health care that focuses on keeping people healthy, not just treating them when they are sick, is attributable to collaboration and coordination among our clinicians. While we appreciate the desire of the bill's advocates to be paid for their services, we believe the provisions of HB 2388 that force us to contract for care outside of our system threaten our unique and successful model and are a detriment to patient safety.

We also believe that important safety provisions are missing from HB 2388. Through our integrated model of care and coverage, Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to improving maternal and infant health. The commitment to patients includes excellent reproductive, prenatal, delivery, postpartum, and ongoing follow up care for mother and child. We design and provide our care delivery based on the tenets of safe, effective, equitable, efficient, and timely patient-centered care. We maintain the integrity of this model by utilizing internal clinicians that meet our necessary credentialing and experience requirements and practice to top and within scope or practice. We strongly believe that this bill should require any clinicians who perform childbirth services in Oregon have adequate medical liability coverage and be required to follow the Health Evidence Review Commission guidelines for planned out-of-hospital birth.

For these reasons, Kaiser Permanente respectfully opposes HB 2388.

Sincerely,

Stella Dantas, MD, FACOG
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