

Thank you for taking your time to read my testimony. My name is Yoko Ackerman. I am a concerned Gresham resident and registered nurse. I'm in favor of HB3592.

CDC reported, pregnancy-related mortality rate had continued to increase 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2021 from 23.8 in 2020. Racial/ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic disparities continue to lead to negative maternal/fetal outcomes.

In 2016, we welcomed our third child at a birth center in a local hospital. It was one of my happiest moments but also the scariest moment of my life. I had an undiagnosed condition, placenta increta, which caused severe bleeding after delivery. Blood was everywhere, and I was very scared. Nurses started hanging blood, and I was taken to a main operation room. I woke up in the middle of a massive blood transfusion and was told that obstetricians had removed a uterus to save my life. 2 years later, I started working as a labor and delivery nurse at the very same birth center.

People rarely speak about pregnancy-related emergencies, and how every minute counts to separate life and death. Labor and delivery nurses, midwives and obstetricians have gone through many years of training to be specialized to care for women. When people see "H" signs at a highway exit or on the street, they expect there is a birth center in the hospital because it is common knowledge. No one expects to deliver their babies in a busy emergency department. Emergency department physicians and nurses have gone through specialized training to stabilize patients, but not to deliver babies or respond to obstetric emergencies. That's why different specialties exist in a general hospital. If I had delivered in a general hospital which did not offer maternity services, I would not be here today to watch my children grow.

Pregnancy would bring great joy, hope and dream of many possibilities to many families. Everyone deserves to have access to a safe birth place in their local hospital. Unborn babies are our future, so please support HB3592 to provide a healthy start in life for them to achieve their full potential.