

Submitter: Katrina Rapp  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB3592

As a third-year medical student at Oregon Health & Science University, I have witnessed how barriers to the appropriate and necessary obstetric and maternity care result in devastating outcomes. While on the labor and delivery service of my OBGYN rotation, I watched a woman lose her child at 38 weeks gestation due to prolonged travel time to the hospital and insufficient blood flow to her child which resulted in hypoxemia. This was an absolutely devastating outcome for this woman and her family, as well as for all of the hospital staff that took part in her care that night. There are so many conversations surrounding poor infant and maternal outcomes in childbirth in our country, yet it continues to feel like nothing is being done to address this issue. In fact, this past month Legacy has unethically closed its birthing center in Mt Hood (the only one in the entire county) due to the profits over people mentality that often dominates our healthcare system. As a medical student entering this profession, it is hard not to feel disheartened by the inequities that exist and continue to evolve within the field of medicine. HB3592 contains the baseline needs of pregnant and birthing mothers and I passionately support it. Looking after pregnant people and their babies with thoughtfulness and intention will provide a brighter future for Oregon.