

Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chairs, and Representatives, for the record my name is Teddy Glemser, I am a charge nurse in the emergency department at Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center, and I'm testifying in favor of House Bill 3592. I believe this bill is critical to ensuring access to care for all pregnant people because of what I've seen in the East Multnomah County and surrounding communities as Legacy Health has closed the Mt. Hood family birth center.

As a nurse in this emergency department for the last 5 years I have seen the variety of races, cultures, and languages spoken by the patients that the staff care for within this hospital. Some of these patients and their families are also considered low income with a variety of limited resources including not having their own personal transportation and relying on public transportation which can be difficult when seeking emergency services.

With the closure of the birth center another detrimental resource is being stripped away from these families and increasing more stress and anxiety when the time comes for them to welcome their newborn child into the world. And that is if the family is aware that Mt. Hood Medical Center no longer has a birth center. Imagine if these families aren't aware of this change and they arrive to this hospital and are welcomed into the emergency department while actively laboring to deliver their unborn child. They will quickly learn that they will be emergently transferred to Randall Children's Hospital or remain in the emergency department to deliver their child.

In my personal opinion I do not feel that the emergency room nurses have received enough education and knowledge to be assisting with the delivery of a newborn child and then resuscitating them if necessary. In total the nurses will receive 16 hours of in class education and skills practice, and not each nurse in the department has received this education yet.

I have been a nurse for over 9 years and an emergency nurse for over 5 years, while a significant percentage of the nurses in the department have a total of 2 years or less of nursing experience. These nurses are still considered novices in their careers and several of them will be coming to me as their charge nurse and asking me how to treat and care for these laboring patients and possible newborn babies that aren't breathing or responsive.

I 100% do not feel comfortable or adequate in my skill level within the knowledge of labor and delivery, and being responsible for my staff as well in such situations, which led to my resignation from the emergency department. Caring for such patients in this emergency department with limited knowledge will lead to horrible results for both the laboring mother and/or unborn child, while possibly the worst result of death, and I refuse to have any part of these unsafe and irresponsible choices.

Not only am I a charge nurse in the Mt. Hood Medical Center emergency department, but I'm also a patient of the family birth center. I have delivered 2 of my children at this hospital and my plan was to deliver my 4<sup>th</sup> child here in September of this year. Shortly after finding out that I was pregnant it was announced that the Mt. Hood birth center will be closing in March. Immediately my husband and I became nervous and started questioning what we were going to do when it came time for me to deliver our unborn child. We live in Sandy, OR which is 20-25

minutes from Mt. Hood Medical Center and we are being told to transition to Randall Children's Hospital to deliver our child which is roughly 1 hour travel time depending on the time of day and traffic.

The main reason my husband and I have concerns about the travel time to Randall Children's Hospital from our home is because my most recent child labor was a total time of 5 hours and I delivered her 45 minutes after arriving to Mt. Hood Medical Center. Not only do we have concerns about an even shorter labor with this child and not being able to make it to any hospital in time, but I also have had bleeding complications with all of my deliveries, and my first child needed immediate resuscitation after delivery. These are a couple of many complications that can occur during child labor which can cause increased stress and anxiety to the situation.

I know I'm not alone, and that there are other expectant mothers who can no longer go to Legacy Mt. Hood. I worry about parents worse off than me who don't have good transportation or don't have doctors who speak their language. How is this a safe and equitable option for the women and families of East Multnomah County and the several surrounding towns that Mt. Hood Medical Center cares for?

I strongly believe that if an equity analysis, as outlined in the House Bill 3592 was completed of East Multnomah County and surrounding towns then the closure of Mt. Hood Medical Center's family birth center would have been prevented. Thank you for your time and consideration.