



Oregon Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
4676 Commercial Street SE PMB #100
Salem, Oregon 97302
oregonmidwives.org

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 24, 2023

To Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is Emily Zeno Yeast and I am the president of the Oregon Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the professional organization for Certified Nurse-Midwives and an advocacy organization promoting the health and well-being of individuals seeking sexual, reproductive, newborn and primary care in Oregon. I am also a Certified Nurse-Midwife practicing with Samaritan Health Services in Corvallis, Oregon.

I am writing to ask you to vote yes on HB 3298 to improve outcomes for mothers and babies in Oregon. We are in a maternal health crisis that has only deepened in the past years with a 40% increase in maternal mortality since the start of the pandemic. The Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC) has a proven track record of working with key stakeholders to implement evidence-based quality improvement initiatives in Oregon. These initiatives save lives.

OPC brings together leading maternity care providers in Oregon to develop tools that can be used statewide. For example, the five hospitals within Samaritan Health Services, among others, have implemented postpartum hemorrhage and severe hypertension safety bundles developed by OPC; hemorrhage and severe hypertension are two of the leading causes of maternal mortality. I participated in an OPC work group to develop a toolkit to improve safety and outcomes for community birth to hospital transfers and am now leading that quality initiative at my hospital with the ongoing support of OPC; supporting safe and timely hospital transfers is another important component of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality.

The Oregon Perinatal Collaborative cannot continue to do this vital work without ongoing funding. Please vote yes on HB 3298 to improve maternal and infant health in Oregon. Thank you for all you do to support the health of the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Emily Zeno Yeast, Certified Nurse-Midwife
President, Oregon Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Philomath, Oregon 97370
oregonacnm@gmail.com