

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 3298

My name is Dr. Wendy Smith and I am an inpatient Obstetrician/Gynecologist Physician with masters degrees in both Public Health and Epidemiology. I have worked at Legacy Emanuel/Randall Children's Hospital, a Level IV Maternity Care Center for the last 12 years. In this role, with my Maternal Fetal Medicine colleagues, I care for some of the highest risk pregnant people in the state and have delivered many thousands of babies. I have also served as the Physician Member of the Oregon State Board of Direct Entry Midwifery since 2013 and most recently was appointed to the Oregon State Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee where I hope to be able to positively impact maternal and infant health outcomes throughout Oregon.

The Oregon Perinatal Collaborative has been a unifying body for ensuring safe, high quality, evidence-based obstetrical care in Oregon. The work of OPC bridges rural and urban cities and towns and spans from community settings to academic centers, allowing for more equitable care for all pregnant and birthing people in the state. The ongoing mission of OPC is to reach every birthing hospital in Oregon, with an emphasis on those in the Eastern and Central regions.

I know that my patients at Legacy are safer since we implemented the OPC developed obstetric hemorrhage prevention bundle; this is one reason why Legacy Health Systems formally supports House Bill 3298. Now it's time, with your support, to make sure that the important work of the OPC can be sustained and expanded upon.

In the future, OPC will evaluate and work to address and reduce the unacceptable racial and ethnic disparities that we continue to see in maternal and infant health outcomes. Clinical goals include developing and facilitating the incorporation of protocols to manage hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, including preeclampsia, which are life-saving especially for Black, Brown and Indigenous pregnant people. OPC will focus on anemia prevention in order to reduce severe maternal morbidity and we will strive to adopt a team-based, patient-centered care model to achieve these important outcomes. Additionally, OPC will serve as a necessary action arm for the learnings gained by reviews of incidents of maternal mortality and morbidity in Oregon by the MMRC.

I have dedicated my professional life to achieving the best possible outcomes for the pregnant people that I care for; I ask that you help all obstetrical providers in Oregon by making the passage of House Bill 3298 one of your highest priorities during this legislative session.

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