

We are members of the Multnomah Democrats' Criminal Justice Study Group, which supports sensible legislation to promote justice, and which testified in February in strong support of HB 2535.

We are testifying today in continued support of this legislation, as it codifies many essential protections for prisoners giving birth while incarcerated. However, we were disappointed by the adopted amendment that allows limited exceptions to the original no-restraints-during-birth policy. This was an unnecessary amendment, most likely proposed by someone who has never given birth. Nevertheless, we still call on the Health Committee to pass this important bill.

Sally Joughin
Anthony Fischer
Barbara Isaacman
Layla Assem