

Submitter: Mariana Bonham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB692

My name is Mariana Bonham and I am the Assistant Director of Early Childhood at Impact Northwest. I am writing today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 692. The U.S. has the highest maternal mortality rate among high-income countries. In Oregon, women of color are more likely to lose their babies or to experience complications in pregnancy, women are not being explained their options and practices such as: separation of newborns from their mothers, instead of promoting skin to skin connection; induction of deliveries are planned for women instead of being offered as an option. Practices are accepted by women of color and immigrants who do not feel they have the possibility to question or choose what works best for them.

SB 692 would help mothers and families to be connected to a doula or an advocate that can have the time to explain options, preferences, and rights;, before, during and after pregnancy. Moms being able to be connected to someone they trust can be simply a life saver, outcomes such as post-partum depression and nursing can be discussed and eventually be able to overcome it with referrals that can keep connecting families to the right professionals.

I appreciate the work you do to support Oregon's children and families, and I urge you to vote YES on SB 692.

Sincerely,

Mariana Bonham, Assistant Director of Early Childhood at Impact Northwest.
Portland, OR