

Submitter: Kelly Menne

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB692

Chair Reynold and members of the committee, My name is Kelly Menne, IBCLC. I am from Sheridan, OR and represent Mama Baby Lactation. I am writing in support of SB 692 and SB 693. As an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant I see first hand the struggles families with new babies face. With better support through doulas and availability to Lactation Consultants we see greater improvements in rates of breastfeeding. Increased breastfeeding rates are in alignment with the World Health Organization and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Many people in Oregon are told that they have access to Lactation support but when confronted with that in actual practice there are limitations on that access which makes it inequitable for a certain population of Oregonians. I have personally spoken with and worked with many individuals who have state sponsored healthcare and they are unable to utilize their benefits to see a Lactation Consultant. Many Lactation Consultants will also come to the home, which can greatly increase the probability of continued exclusive breastfeeding to 6 months of age or longer. We know that breastfeeding contributes to increased positive health outcomes for infants and parents. I encourage you to support this bill and others in the future that could increase access to all levels of care that can have a positive impact on breastfeeding rates.