



Postpartum Support International
Oregon Chapter

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Oregon Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

To the honorable Senator Lisa Reynolds, Senator Dick Anderson, Senator Chris Gorsek, Senator Diane Linthicum, and Senator Deb Patterson:

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter of Postpartum Support International, a non-profit that dedicates improving parental mental health across Oregon, we appreciate the renewed advocacy for improving perinatal services throughout the state. We are expressing **support for Oregon Senate Bill 693**, which establishes a task force regarding the perinatal workforce in Oregon. This legislation is needed to identify the gaps in perinatal care in the vast geographical regions' infrastructure to improving accessibility of services across the states.

The establishment of this task force will ensure a thorough evaluation of Oregon's perinatal workforce, identifying existing barriers and challenges that impede access to quality care. By including a diverse range of professionals—physicians, midwives, doulas, lactation consultants, behavioral/mental health specialists, and community health workers—this initiative takes a comprehensive approach to strengthening the perinatal workforce in **every community**.

Furthermore, the task force's commitment to examining successful programs from other states and countries will provide Oregon with valuable insights on best practices for increasing the availability, diversity, and effectiveness of perinatal care providers. Addressing the diversity of Oregon's population racial, ethnic, linguistic, and geographic difference to provide cultural equitable care.

We urge the Legislature to support SB 693 and prioritize investments in perinatal health care infrastructure. By doing so, we can work towards a future where every family has access to high-quality, culturally competent perinatal care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kat Peterson

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