

Submitter: Elaine Uchison

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB692

Dear Senate Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee, My name is Elaine Uchison and I work at an academic health center in Portland, Oregon. I am a mom to two wonderful and healthy sons. My oldest son's birth in 1995 in Central Oregon included a long home labor, an unexpected hospital transfer and an unplanned c-section. Throughout these scary events, our birth doula team provided invaluable emotional, physical, and psychological support during and after our birth experience. They advocated for and with us during the entire process and worked with the hospital doctors to make sure I still had agency in my vulnerable and exhausted condition. Without them, I'm convinced our family would have experienced much poorer outcomes and unnecessary emotional trauma. I believe that every person in Oregon should have the option to be supported by a doula and other invaluable perinatal supports. This is why I urge you to support SB 692 to establish a community-based perinatal provider access program. Thank you for considering my testimony as you make your decision.