

Submitter: Amy Randel
On Behalf Of: Self in support of childrens institute
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB692

My name is Amy Randel, and I am a concerned citizen and am currently trying to have a child in Oregon. I am writing today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 692, which will expand and strengthen Oregon's perinatal workforce.

This workforce touched my life last year when I received incredible midwifery support during my pregnancy. When I found out that, at 20 weeks I'd lost my pregnancy, my midwife team offered me incredible life-saving care. In addition to the medical care, their personal and extremely human approach to care- the calls and the mental health focus-- saved me. Without the midwives, I would not be okay today and would not be willing to try again. The care and support they provided me and my family was something I do not believe I could have received in traditional obstetrics.

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. Maternal mortality rates are rooted in racial and geographic disparities driven by systemic racism and unequal access to quality healthcare.

SB 692 would help babies and families from the beginning, connecting birthing parents with doulas to advocate for moms before, during, and after pregnancy, and with lactation counselors to help moms nurse successfully.

Expanding access to midwives, doulas, lactation consultants, and other perinatal professionals isn't just a policy decision—it's a life-saving necessity. When families have the right support, outcomes improve, and parents can focus on what matters most: welcoming their babies into the world safely.

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

Sincerely,
Amy Randel