

Submitter: Tamarra Ragland  
On Behalf Of: Mamas Be Magic  
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB692

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for increasing the rates for community doulas in Oregon to align with the reimbursement rates provided in Washington state. As we all know, doulas provide essential support to birthing individuals and families, playing a crucial role in enhancing maternal health, reducing birth complications, and improving overall community well-being. These services—whether during labor, delivery, or postpartum—are vital to the health of both parents and babies, yet they remain undervalued in Oregon compared to neighboring states.

Oregon has been a trailblazer in offering doula services, and this state has recognized the importance of these services in improving birth outcomes. However, despite the invaluable impact doulas have on maternal and infant health, many doulas in our state face financial strain due to insufficient compensation for the critical work they do. A rate increase would not only recognize the dedication and expertise of doulas but would also enable them to continue offering services to families who need them most, without fear of financial hardship.

Washington state provides a model that we should aspire to, ensuring that doulas are compensated fairly for their work. This increase would help make doula care accessible to more families, especially in underserved communities where maternal health disparities are most pronounced. It is essential that doulas can make a living wage while continuing to provide high-quality care to Oregon families.

By raising the rates, we will strengthen Oregon's commitment to maternal health and equity. Doula care has been shown to reduce unnecessary interventions, promote healthier births, and offer emotional support for families during one of the most transformative times in their lives. Investing in doulas is investing in the health and well-being of Oregon's future generations.

I urge you to support a rate increase for community doulas, to ensure that Oregon continues to be a leader in maternal health and equitable care.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Tamarra Ragland

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