

Submitter: Rebeckah Orton
On Behalf Of: Astoria Birth Center and Family Medicine
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB692

On behalf of rural health providers across Oregon and the women and families we serve, we are writing to state, unequivocally, that while the United States stands in 64th place in the world for maternal mortality, that we must take immediate action to remedy the primary causes of maternal death.

The single largest contributor to maternal mortality is suicide, at 23% of all deaths.

We know that the maternal mortality ratio for care which initiates in a community setting - regardless of the final place of delivery - reduces the maternal mortality ratio. At large, the rate is 22.3 per 100,000. Care beginning in a community setting results in a rate of 0.7 per 100,000.

Allocating sustainable funding to community healthcare providers saves lives and reduces overall maternal healthcare costs by billions.

The solution is already in front of us, quietly producing these superior outcomes. But those systems need to be the first line of care, not a luxury service available only to those who can afford it.

Current maternal mortality ratio: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality/2022/maternal-mortality-rates-2022.pdf>

World ranking for maternal mortality (note, data are in ascending order):

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/field/maternal-mortality-ratio/country-comparison/>

Contributors to maternal mortality: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p0919-pregnancy-related-deaths.html>

Outcomes and associated cost savings in freestanding birth centers:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jmwh.12003>