



Health Department

February 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for Momnibus Legislation

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Multnomah County Health Department's support of the Momnibus legislative package, which expands access to community-based perinatal services, substance use disorder treatment, and financial resources for birthing people, families, and providers. Supporting pregnant and postpartum people and giving the youngest Oregonians the best start possible remains a top priority in Multnomah County, as highlighted in our [2025 legislative agenda](#).

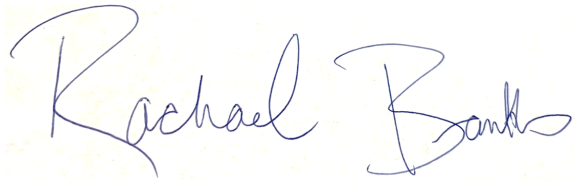
Housing assistance, social services, equitable health care access, community-based and peer support models of care, and income policies that support true self-sufficiency—rather than trapping families between earning too much to receive assistance and not earning enough to thrive—are gold-standard approaches to ending child poverty. In Multnomah County's efforts to lead with race, we understand that the diverse families residing in the County come from cultures and backgrounds that have varied, including traumatic, histories with navigating health care systems and social services. The Multnomah County Health Department is committed to supporting community-based, culturally responsive perinatal care for healthy birth and postpartum outcomes for infants and birthing parents. In addition to providing culturally responsive home visiting services and referrals to community-based programs, several staff within the Parent Child Family Health and WIC service areas have cross-trained as doulas, lactation counselors, and peer specialists to better serve birthing families.

[Oregon's Maternal Mortality Review Committee](#) found that between 2018 and 2020, nearly half of Oregon's maternal deaths involved individuals with a Bachelor's degree or higher, mental health conditions (including substance use disorder), or instances where discrimination was a leading contributing factor. More than half of these maternal deaths

took place after birth and were deemed preventable. Every birthing person and family deserves access to physical and emotional prenatal and postpartum support, help with breastfeeding, stable housing and food access, substance use disorder treatment, and a robust network of providers capable of imparting the necessary care.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachael Banks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue shadow effect behind the text.

Rachael Banks, MPA
Director
Multnomah County Health Department