

Submitter: Yasmeen Brown
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB692

Sacred Roots Doula and Lactation
February 18, 2025

Submitter: Yasmeen Brown

On Behalf Of: Sacred Roots Doula

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Bill/issue: SB 692, Expanding the perinatal workforce

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Yasmeen Brown and have been involved with birth work for the last seven years and currently work as a doula with Sacred Roots Doula. I am writing today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 692, which will expand and strengthen Oregon's perinatal workforce.

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. On February 13th, 2025 I personally attended a labor and delivery for a woman of color as a Sacred Roots doula, where in which mother (M1 for reference) and baby (B1) came close to injury or even worse, due to the lack of care or concern from Providence Portland Family Maternity Center staff, located at 4805 NE Glisan St, Portland, OR 97213. I am currently working on documenting the events that took place on 02/13/2025.

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. In the case of M1 and B1, I can personally describe my work as their doula to be quite literally, "life saving".

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

Sincerely,

Yasmeen Brown

Doula

Sacred Roots Doula and Lactation

Portland, OR