

**Katherine Sanchez-Navarro Peterson**

Salem, Oregon

February 17, 2025

**Senator Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health**

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

**Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 691**

To the Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee Members,

I am writing to express my **support** for **Senate Bill 691**, which seeks to expanding access to integrated perinatal care and substance use disorder treatment. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring that pregnant individuals and new parents receive the care and support they need while dealing with substance use disorders.

A dear friend of mine struggled with OxyContin use after a domestic violence injury which led to more substances to numb her physical and emotional pain. Her use continued when she became pregnant with her second. She reached out for support and was offered out-patient services and communities like NA (Narcotics Anonymous). She really needed inpatient support, but without it she could never full detox from everything. Her newborn child was removed from her home along with her 10-year-old after birth. It took two years for her to get into an inpatient treatment facility after being waitlisted for about a year. The critical two years without her children was full of despair. Due to services like Project Nurture, she had a peer support that helped guide her through the journey of recovery and regaining the life she envisioned. She is now peer support for other mothers going through substance use abuse treatment, left her abusive relationship, and able to have a home for her and her two children now 17 and 6.

Senate Bill 691 represents an essential advancement in maternal healthcare policy, and I urge the Legislature to pass this measure to support families across Oregon. The first 1000 days of a child's life is significant to their development, having parents who are working towards recovery is vital to creating a strong family and building our communities.

Sincerely,

**Katherine Sanchez-Navarro Peterson**

Compass Perinatal Family and Community Support