

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 692

To the Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee Members,

I want to support for Senate Bill 692, but I would like an **amendment** on the verbiage of lactation consultants. When it comes to billing insurance lactation consultants are primarily RN-IBCLCs. This is a hurdle for those wanting to provide lactation support. Without being an RN it is very difficult to complete the number of supervision hours, particularly in areas outside of the 1-5 corridor. Lactation support is getting harder and harder to receive with WIC downsizing their workforce in counselors across the state and the struggle of private lactation practice, we need a robust workforce solution.

I support Aver Yakubu, Nurturely, sentiments on “the provisions related to sustainable payment models for community-based lactation professionals. This includes certified lactation counselors (CLC) and certified lactation educators (CLE) being considered Medicaid billable providers... However, many families face significant barriers to receiving this care due to cost, lack of insurance coverage, and insufficient lactation professionals in their communities. To address these gaps, we must establish sustainable payment models that fairly compensate community-based lactation providers. Just as we have recognized the value of doulas in improving birth outcomes, we must ensure that lactation consultants and peer supporters (who are sometimes also doulas) are reimbursed for their essential services.”

I urge you to **support** bill SB 692 and amend to include lactation counselors and educators at THWs (Traditional Health Workers). Thank you for your time and commitment to improving maternal and child health in our state.

Sincerely,

Katherine Sanchez-Navarro Peterson

Compass Perinatal Family and Community Support