

Submitter: Jennifer Pierce

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1039

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

My name is Jennifer Pierce, and I am the nurse manager of the Family Birthing Center at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Lincoln City. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on SB 1039 to improve outcomes for mothers and babies in Oregon.

I have been a registered nurse for 31 years and have dedicated my life to caring for the birthing community. Sadly, the US has the highest morbidity and mortality rates in the industrialized world. Studies have also demonstrated that roughly 80% of those deaths were preventable, eighty percent! We must do better. Best practices have demonstrated improved outcomes with participation in state led Perinatal Collaboratives and that is exactly why I'm asking for your yes vote.

This year we have been working on hypertension. OPC has provided education, support, data and a robust collaborative space for all of us doing the boots on the ground work. For instance, best practice states that birthing people who have elevated blood pressure should be taught to monitor and track their pressure at home, however cost can be a big barrier. We as a group have collaborated on how to operationalize getting BP cuffs to those who desperately need them. Several hospitals and clinics have or will have a BP cuff distribution and education process. This will save lives!

Critical Access and rural facilities face many unique challenges. This is where OPC is crucial for Oregon. Last month, OPC created a low birth volume/CAH subgroup to create a space of collaboration for those of us who face those unique challenges of being rural. I'm ever so grateful for the chance to share our solutions and ideas to improve care for those vulnerable populations. Rural communities need this support!

Oregon Perinatal Collaborative is crucial in providing safe, evidence-based care to all of Oregon's birthing population. It is vital to support this bill to fund Oregon Perinatal Collaborative. Please vote yes, for the health of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Pierce BSN, RN
Nurse Manager, Family Birthing Center
Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital

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