



Oregon Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives

4676 Commercial Street SE PMB #100

Salem, Oregon 97302

oregonacnm@gmail.com

oregonmidwives.org

Emily Zeno Yeast, CNM

Immediate Past President, Oregon Affiliate of the ACNM

Chair, Legislative & Advocacy Committee, Oregon Affiliate of the ACNM

March 11, 2025

RE: Senate Bill 1039

Senator and Committee Chair Lisa Reynolds and esteemed members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Yeast and I write on behalf of the Oregon Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives to urge your support for SB 1039. As the immediate past president and current Legislative & Advocacy Committee chair, I represent the 395 Certified Nurse-Midwives who deliver 1 in 4 babies in Oregon. I also practice at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis.

We are in a maternal health crisis. Poor-quality care is driving high rates of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. Despite growing awareness, outcomes remain stagnant. In fact, Oregon's preterm birth rate has climbed over the past decade, and racial disparities persist—infants of Black women face nearly twice the risk of dying.

We can do better. Continued and expanded funding of the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC) is one of the best investments in maternal/child health the state can make. Like perinatal quality collaboratives nationwide, OPC provides proven interventions to improve outcomes. The work of perinatal quality collaboratives is recognized as the gold standard for reducing maternal morbidity and mortality.

For instance, hypertensive disorders complicate 15% of pregnancies and are a leading cause of maternal mortality. OPC's Initiative on Severe Hypertension provides hands-on support to hospitals statewide in implementing evidence-based toolkits, ensuring timely, high-quality care by engaging all stakeholders in all practice settings—midwives, doctors, nurses, doulas, emergency room providers and community midwives.

As midwives, we strive to provide excellent care to our patients, and OPC equips us with essential tools and support to do so. Please vote yes on SB 1039 to renew OPC funding so they can continue and expand their work and make Oregon the safest place to be pregnant and give birth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emily Zeno Yeast".

Emily Zeno Yeast, CNM

Corvallis, OR 97330