

Submitter: Martha Rivera Canjura  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Doula Association  
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 Martha Rivera and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Doula Association. I am writing to ask you to vote yes on SB 1039 to improve outcomes for mothers and babies in Oregon.

We are currently facing a maternal and infant health crisis, and solutions are urgently needed. Quality improvement initiatives, such as those led by state-level Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs) like the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC), provide the gold standard for addressing this crisis. Since its inception in 2012, OPC has been at the forefront of maternal and infant health quality improvement, working tirelessly to enhance healthcare practices and reduce preventable deaths and complications during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period.

OPC's proven track record, along with its strong relationships with hospitals, doctors, nurses, doulas, and other healthcare professionals, has been instrumental in driving meaningful improvements across the state. These partnerships have allowed OPC to implement evidence-based practices that are transforming maternal and infant care, ensuring that both mothers and babies receive the best possible care.

With stable funding from the legislature in 2023, OPC was able to expand its reach and capacity, extending its impact even further. This renewed support provides an invaluable opportunity: with continued funding, OPC has the potential to reach every birth in the state, ensuring that no mother or infant is left behind in the effort to improve outcomes. The work OPC is doing is crucial, and with the right resources, we can make significant strides in ensuring healthier mothers and infants for generations to come.

For us, improved maternal and infant health means more than just better medical outcomes; it represents the foundation for a thriving community. When mothers and infants receive proper care during pregnancy, birth, and the early years, it sets the stage for healthier families and stronger future generations. Additionally, our work with the OPC has allowed us to focus on at-risk populations, ensuring that those in underserved or rural areas have access to essential services and care.

We believe that the efforts supported by the OPC not only improve individual health

outcomes but also foster broader social and economic benefits. Healthier mothers and children are better able to contribute to their communities, reducing long-term healthcare costs and improving quality of life for everyone.

Please vote yes on SB 1039 to improve maternal and infant health in Oregon.

Thank you for the work you do to support the health of mothers and babies.

Martha Rivera, THW Doula  
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