

Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 1167 – Funding for a Birthing Village

Dear Senator Reynolds,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1167, which seeks to provide funding for a birthing village in the Portland Tri-County area . This initiative is critical in addressing maternal health disparities, improving birth outcomes, and ensuring that all families—particularly those in underserved communities—have access to culturally competent, high-quality maternity care.

The U.S. faces a maternal health crisis, with rising maternal mortality rates disproportionately affecting Black, Indigenous, and rural populations. Birthing villages offer a holistic approach to maternal care, integrating midwifery services, prenatal education, postpartum support, and community-based resources. By funding this initiative, we can help reduce preventable maternal and infant deaths, promote healthier pregnancies, and support new mothers and families.

As a retired community health nurse, for over 35 years. I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by expectant mothers in accessing safe and supportive care. A birthing village would provide essential wraparound services, creating a nurturing and empowering environment for families during one of the most critical times in their lives.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 1167 and champion this crucial investment in maternal and infant health. Thank you for your time and dedication to improving healthcare for all. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information or testimonials regarding the importance of this bill.

Sincerely,
Violet Larry BSN, RN
Retired Community Health Nurse

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