

Submitter: Sarah Pytalski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1167

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1167 – MOMNIBUS "1st Thousand Days"

Honorable Senators and Staff,

My name is Sarah, and I am a resident of Douglas County. I am writing to express my full support for SB1167, which will provide critical funding and resources to support the healthy development of children in Oregon during the crucial first 1,000 days of life. The investments made possible through this bill will strengthen early childhood development, maternal health, and family support programs -- addressing disparities and ensuring access to care. SB1167 supports the development of a birthing village and critical care services for getting the strong start for families where care deserts exist, especially in rural counties like mine.

Funding for the first 1,000 days of a child's life (from conception to age two) is crucial because it's a critical period for brain development, laying the foundation for lifelong health and well-being, and addressing issues like malnutrition and poverty.

These investments are essential for improving maternal and infant health outcomes, reducing disparities, and ensuring families receive the support they need. As a parent, community advocate and doula-in-training, I have both seen and experienced firsthand how critical these resources are in shaping the health and well-being of Oregon's children and families.

Studies show that countries that fail to invest in the well-being of women and children in the first 1,000 days lose billions of dollars to lower economic productivity and higher health costs. It is why several of the world's leading economists have called for greater investments in the nutrition and well-being of mothers, babies, and toddlers as a way to create brighter and more prosperous futures for us all.

I urge you to support SB1167 and make this investment in our state's future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Pytalski
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