

To: Senate Early Childhood & Behavioral Health Committee
From: Dana Hepper, Children's Institute
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Re: Support for SB 1568 – technical fix legislation for Momnibus

Chair Reynolds & members of the Senate Early Childhood & Behavioral Health Committee, my name is Dana Hepper, and I am the Director of Policy & Advocacy for the Children's Institute. We, like you, are working to make Oregon the best place to be a kid.

I am here to speak in support of SB 1568, as we see this as the obvious next step in the Momnibus effort. I will provide a quick background and an overview of the pieces of the legislation related to doulas & lactation counselors, and I'm glad to answer any questions.

Pregnancy and the first year of a child's life is a window of opportunity to protect mother and child safety, support early development, advance equity, and build the parent-child bond. For this reason, Sen. Reynolds brought together legislators and advocates to make progress for Oregon families in this critical period.

In 2025, the Oregon Legislature made progress on the Momnibus package to support parents and children in the perinatal period. You passed [SB 690](#) and [SB 692](#), and you dedicated funding for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative. Thank you.

SB 1568 is an important next step in this progress. I'll speak to the doula & lactation consultant pieces of this bill. As partners moved toward implementation of legislation to increase access to doulas and lactation counselors ([SB 692](#)), it was identified that changes to the statutory language were needed to better support implementation.

Specifically, SB 1568 will support stronger implementation of doula and lactation counselor coverage in three ways:

First, the legislation updates doula requirements (Sections 3, 6, 12, 13, 19) including,

- (1) specifically directing the creation of birth and postpartum doula types to reflect the distinct support provided;
- (2) clarifying benefit requirements to reduce confusion in implementation, and getting precise about coverage language – and you will hear more about that from Cambia.
- (3) making technical fixes to the perinatal access fund to ensure the providers currently operating as doula hubs and training organizations are eligible.

Second, the legislation shifts lactation counselor credentialing to the Traditional Health Worker Commission (from the Health Licensing Office), which is a better fit for this community-based role. (Sections 10, 17, 22)

Finally, the legislation pushes implementation dates back to 2028 to provide adequate time for thoughtful rulemaking informed by stakeholders and to acknowledge delays resulting from the OHA hiring freeze.

SB 1568 does not have a fiscal. This is really a technical fix bill, and we urge its passage. I am glad to answer any questions.