

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee – thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 496.

My name is Alma Raber and I am a member of the McArthur Ohio Amish community. I am a mother of 8 children and I had a midwife for all of them. My mother also had 15 home deliveries. Myself and my community support HB 496 as it would help us protect our choice to give birth at home and increase safety by allowing our midwife to legally carry lifesaving medications, obtain ultrasounds and labs legally. Our midwife has ways of doing some of these things thankfully but we want her to be able to legally allowed and have guaranteed easy access for the continued safety of women and babies. It is very important to our community that midwifery is safe and accessible for us so I fully support HB 496.

Thank you, Alma Raber