

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.

I am a mother of two, one born in a hospital and the second born at home with a midwife. I work in a research laboratory and my husband is an M.D.

My first pregnancy was with a ob/gyn. Due to being what was considered advanced age my entire, normal, pregnancy was over managed. Like many women I ended up being unnecessarily induced which after many hours of pushing almost led to a C-section. My second pregnancy started out similar to my first and while I was uneasy about it, I didn't look at other possibilities until a close relative suggested a midwife. I was initially hesitant but when to my first appointment and immediately felt a sense of relief, finally I felt like my whole person was being cared for and not just the fetus. However, I didn't make the switch right away. In today's society we are taught that birth happens a hospital, with a doctor and all the technology that needs to accommodate this natural occurrence. Going against this wisdom is looked down upon, especially by doctors. But at one doctors appointment, not even halfway through my pregnancy, they made the comment "I'll see how long I let you go," when no problems had been identified, I knew I needed to make the switch completely to a midwife. My son was born quickly and peacefully in a birth pool in my home. My midwives were informative, supportive, and empowering, with care that continued for both my son and myself well into his first few months of life.

Traditionally midwives cared for normally progressing pregnancies, while identifying those that are not and sending them to doctors trained in these complications.

I am in support of HB 496 because by protecting midwives through a more formal position within this field we are allowing doctors to focus on patients that need their expertise while allowing midwives to provide more wholistic care to those that do not need special attention, protecting all involved.

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