

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 physician and board certified anesthesiologist. My wife and I have had 2 children. Our first was born in a hospital setting. We didn't even consider any other options. My wife didn't have a great experience. Nothing went wrong, and we had a healthy baby, but there were a number of interventions she had not planned on and really didn't want, and probably didn't need.

When she became pregnant with our second child my sister suggested looking into a midwife. This was definitely not something I was familiar with and was at least a little uncomfortable. As a physician I knew what could go wrong.

We met with the midwives and they impressed me. I felt much more comfortable moving forward.

My wife delivered a nearly 10lb healthy baby boy at home. The personal care and attention was amazing and frankly not something I have ever seen in a hospital setting. The midwives that attended her birth were very much in tune with the rhythm of labor and what my wife and our son needed. I had zero concerns as a physician with medical care they provided.

We don't intend to have any more children, but wouldn't hesitate to have a home birth again attended by a certified professional midwife. My wife did have to jump through some hoops to find a physician to prescribe the recommended medications to have at home in case of an emergency and I believe it should be in the scope of practice of a certified professional midwife to provide these medications.

Eli Cianciolo MD