

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 Alexis and I am a mom of 2 toddler boys. I had both of them in the comfort of my home through the care of a midwife and would not have it any other way.

I support licensing and regulating midwives in the state of Ohio because I was able to use midwives for my home birth. Professional midwives give an alternative birthing method in which we used for the both of our boys. If we choose to have more children in the future, we will choose a midwife again. Having the opportunity to choose my birthing place meant a lot to my family and I, it was also a more affordable plan. We had a scenario where our babies heart rate dropped really low when I was around eight months pregnant and It would've been convenient to have our Midwife have the proper equipment that was needed to have an ultrasound instead of having to be transferred to the hospital and having to relay the information to our midwife. The care that I received was so special and more than I could of ever imagined especially because I was able to be home with all the things that bring me comfort and joy. I plead with the legislation to give midwives the same recognition as birthing Doctors so that moms who choose to have their babies outside of the hospital will have the same care and attention that Moms in hospitals receive.

This is why I am one hundred percent in support of HB 496

Alexis Cruz