

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.

Here is a brief note on the subject and importance to us to have licensed midwives who able to have access to medications, order ultrasounds, and labs. We live in a rural community 30 minutes to the nearest hospital by fast ambulance. Therefore, we see a great need to have licensed midwives with medications. We also want protection for our midwives. Our first born was born with a CDH (Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia- this is a birth defect where there is a hole in the diaphragm that separates the chest from the abdomen and the organs such as the liver, intestines, and stomach can move upwards into the baby's chest. It is considered a medical emergency and requires prompt surgery to correct). We were lucky our midwife was able to help us schedule ultrasounds where we discovered our son had CDH. Therefore, we could plan for our baby's needs with greater hopes on his survival. It was very important to us to be able to depend on our midwife to schedule ultrasounds and help us with each step until delivery. Without those ultrasounds, we wouldn't have hopes of having our son with us anymore. So legal access to ultrasounds, as well as medications and labs are very important to us. We feel home birth with midwives need to be protected, especially for us Plain Communities who don't have insurance and may not get prenatal, newborn, and postpartum care as consistently if we have to go to a provider who doesn't come to our house for visits. It is important to us to be able to have home births if we choose and it's very important to us to know our midwife has medications in our time of need. Therefore, we see a great need to have licensed midwives with access to medications, ultrasounds, and labs. This is why we are in support HB 496.

We thank you greatly for taking the time to read our letter.

Sincerely,

Eli and Sarah Raber (and two children, Michael and Miriam)