

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 mom of 3. My first was a hospital birth and my second two were home births, which speaks for itself!

My hospital birth was okay but it didn't leave me feeling empowered or cared for, especially in the days and weeks after, where I would have benefited the most, as I suspect that I had developed some postpartum anxiety. I opted for a home birth for my next birth. I chose Women's wisdom at the recommendation of a doula and friend. The care was far more personal. I used them for my third birth as well, which speaks for itself. A requirement of using this team of midwives is parallel care, which means establishing a relationship with a hospital OBGYN in the event of a hospital transfer. It also gives an opportunity to procure prescriptions that maybe needed for the home birth situation, for example: vitamin K and pitocin, which I am glad that I had. I ventured 2 hours to establish this care relationship as it isn't something that most OB providers are comfortable with. I also requested an anatomy scan, which although is seen as optional to some, can be life saving in certain situations. This had to be done through parallel care. If licensed midwife's were able to routinely prescribe these procedures it would have saved time and money for myself and family. Proper licensing is extremely important to me as well. My third child and second home birth was born needing neonatal resuscitation and it was conducted calmly and swiftly by the midwifery team. It is the licensing in situations like this, that make it of upmost importance. We need to protect our midwives, moms, babies, and birthing families especially in the ever changing scape of post Covid births.

This is why I am in support of HB 496
Sarah Fisher