

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 chiropractor in Cincinnati. A big percentage of my practice focuses on serving pregnant women. I support any bill that yields better access, regulation and care choices for pregnant women to midwifery. As a father, all three of my children were born at home with excellent care from midwives.

This bill provides important safety measures to improve the health and outcomes for women and babies. Specifically, midwives will have access to emergency medications. Additionally, the hospital staff will recognize midwives as legal providers that will facilitate safe and healthy transfers. Midwives will be regulated appropriately with this new legislation to insure highest quality of care in the field. For my family, midwifery care, with holistic and natural principles, aligned with our values and desires. It is important to me that we not limit birth choices, but we make safe and healthy options more widely available,

This bill should be seen as a win-win all around. It helps midwives, their clients, and the state of Ohio as a whole. I strongly support this bill!

Pete Haggengjos D.C.