

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 Miriam Yoder and I am a member of the McArthur Amish community in Hamden, Ohio. I am a mother of four children, the first three I used a midwife for, due to very bad varicose vein problems we had our last one at the hospital. So I would really like to see that midwives can legally carry lifesaving medications and order ultrasounds and labs easily. My sister had an ultrasound done when she was 20 weeks along with her first child and they discovered a life-threatening defect called a diaphragmatic hernia. Her midwife done very well in helping her get more ultrasounds, etc. Scheduled and recommended having birth at a hospital with a NICU (our local hospitals don't have NICUs) and doctors scheduled to take the baby and do the surgery that needed to be done immediately. Thankfully, my nephew is now doing pretty good, such a miracle! I want to officially protect our community's ability to access safe care from our midwife. It is very important to our community that midwifery is safe and accessible for us so I fully support HB 496.

Thank you,

Johnny and Miriam Yoder