

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 Katie Hershberger and I am a member of the McArthur Amish community in Ohio. I've given birth to 11 children, all with home births and a wonderful midwife, except one baby that came before anyone got here! That was awesome for me and scary for my husband, so yes, "Midwives are Blessings" and "Earthly Angels" that help us avoid the stress of being surrounded by strangers and rushing off to a hospital. It's totally wonderful to give birth to our precious babies in our own homes, a most relaxed atmosphere. So, I fully support HB 496 making it legal for midwives to legally practice.

Sincerely,

Katie Hershberger