

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, 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 Kaitlyn Martin, I'm 25, I am a Doula and lactation support person, and am applying this fall to OSU to become a CNM. I work closely with many midwives who took varying pathways into midwifery, and they are some of the greatest healthcare professionals I have ever met.

These midwives are highly trained and skilled healthcare providers, who work in a time that is arguably more critical of their work than ever before. Birthing people are often misinformed or have been scared into avoiding midwifery care and physicians are quick to dismiss midwifery care and midwives as a whole.

Now more than ever we need to be supporting Midwives and their field. Parents should have the right and access to not only choose their place of birth, but also to having highly individualized care for themselves and their babies. Parents should be able to receive the safest care possible at any chosen birth location. Midwifery care is an extremely low risk option for many parents and HB 496 will give midwives the opportunity to make their care even safer for parents and babies.

- HB 496 gives licensed midwives legal access to lifesaving medications.
- It requires hospitals, their staff, and EMS to universally recognize midwives as legal providers, making transfers more smooth and safe and providing continuity of care and comfort for the family in a transfer situation no matter which hospital they go to or provider they encounter there.
- Midwives will have legal access to medications, ultrasound, and labwork.
- HB 496 would allow midwives to carry routine maternal and newborn medications that those choosing home birth currently have a hard time accessing, including vitamin K, Rhogam, and eye treatment.

Midwives having access to these things allow them to make sure women maintain a low risk and increase safety for parents and babies.

As a Nurse Midwife I will never have to worry about access to orders or medications for my patients. I will never have to worry about being targeted, persecuted, or simply invalidated as a legitimate care provider, because I will be licensed. Professional and Community midwives have supported families for centuries and are some of the most skilled, knowledgeable, kind, compassionate, passionate, committed, and thoughtful healthcare providers in the US. They deserve to be recognized, respected, and have the opportunity to be licensed as such.

Thank You.