

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 Allison Norris. I birthed 3 children at home with the assistance of a midwife. I also had care from a midwife for ongoing needs regarding my female wellness.

I felt safe, supported, and grounded with the care I received from my midwife. I never doubted the limits of her care but trusted her to guide me with her vast experience and knowledge on birthing babies. I feel confident I would not have had the wonderful births I had without her . My births as far as births go were fairly straight forward. So much of that can be contributed to my genetics . But much of that is contributed to the care I had leading up to my births by my midwife. The conversations about what to expect, to trust my body , the guidance on birth reading and prep. I was aware of all of it and guided that knowledge was my power.

I support HB 496 because our midwives deserve to be recognized fully as providers.

Allison Norris