

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 Ruth Mast from the McArthur Amish community. We have 15 children. We used midwives for all of them. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. As Amish, we can't just jump in a car and go, what is quicker and safer is calling our midwife to come to us. She knows when women in her care are close to "their time" and is ready to hear that first ring from us and is our fastest way to get help. Our choice is to protect our family and friends by allowing our midwives to legally practice to serve our women and babies. Our midwives always bore patience with us and gave us 100% care. That is why we fully support HB 496.

Thank you,

Ruth Mast