

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 had two home births 12 and 15 years ago with the assistance of a mid-wife and her assistant. I have an MA and 25 years of professional experience in higher education and as a caseworker.

I loved having the care of a mid-wife. It was a very personal experience. I do not believe I would have been able to have a safe birth in a hospital as the environment is anxiety causing for me. I did take a risk having a home birth because I knew, if there were complications, transferring to a hospital could have put my mid-wife in legal jeopardy, and communication and planning would have been impossible. If mid-wives were licensed, this one fear of giving birth the way I wanted to and in the environment I wanted would have been alleviated.

These are my main reasons for being in support of HB 496

Laura Schaeffer