

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

When I was 9, I witnessed my brother be born at home with a wonderful midwife's help. He was the 5th of my mother's children born at home. I now have 2 of my own daughters, both attempted home birth and the second one was successful! Home birthing is an incredible experience.

From my own experience, my first child was a failed home birth and my midwife was unlicensed and unsupported preterm and after labor began. My second child went much better and I felt that, even though my midwives had to navigate difficult hospital territory, we were much more informed and supported which led to the success of our home birth.

Aside from my experience, my mother's midwife was eventually forced to close her successful practice due to unlawful legislation in Ohio. HB 496 would have helped her in her time of need.

Midwifery is an asset to women and their babies, without doubt. This is why I am in support of HB 496.

Gabriella Starbuck  
ellastarbuck@gmail.com