

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 Heidi Ryall and I have a one year old toddler. My husband and I used midwives for the birth of our daughter last year and I feel like I am a good person to speak on this topic because of my birthing experience at home and how my midwives handled my situation. The midwives were fast acting, very knowledgeable and delivered my baby safely.

I support licensing and regulating midwives In Ohio. i support HB 496 because the cost of home midwifery care was much more reasonable than the cost of a hospital birth which includes pre/post natal care visits. At the visits, the midwives were very professional, seemed to really care about my baby and my health and it did not just feel like I was another patient they were checking off the list. They allowed me to express my concerns, gave me informed consent and gave me the risks and consequences for each birthing option whether that being home birth, hospital birth, birthing center, epidural risk etc.. I feel as if it is also important and up to the family to choose the best environment to birth at because some people are unable to relax in certain environments and situations and could become stressed which is not good for her or the baby and could result in a negative outcome. The HB 496 would require for the hospital staff, nurses and EMS to recognize a midwife as a legal provider which would very beneficial as it would allow for safer transfers to the hospital. I also support HB 496 because I feel as if it is important for the midwives to have the same medical access that hospital and doctors have for routine medicines if a mother wanted to birth at home.

This is why I support HB 496 because I birthed my child at home and with my trained, educated midwives, i was able to have a natural birth unmedicated and with the quick actions and knowledge of my midwives, i didn't have to transfer even with a shoulder dystocia

Heidi Ryall