

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 a student midwife and the future of licensed midwives is important to me. We are trained health care providers and deserve valid legal protection and validation.

The way we enter the world matters and we have the right to choose who our care providers are and what is done to our bodies. HB 496 ensures that midwives have accountability if they do not practice safely. HB 496 offers explicit legal protection for licensed midwives.

Due to covid 19 many families are reconsidering hospital births and feel home birth is a safer option. Midwives statistically have improved prenatal care and the entire family's well being by providing quality and personalized care. Midwives are trained through an extensive educational platform and deserve recognition. Midwives through proper childbirth education and informed consent prevent emergencies and calamities.

If midwives have access to emergency medication, Pitocin, and other anti hemorrhage medications this can keep mothers safe in regards to birth center and home birth. I strongly support HB 496 because it allows legal access to routine medications such as vitamin K, RhoGAM and antibiotic eye ointment.

Midwives have adequate training to identify low and high risk mothers and can offer safe birthing experiences and know when to refer the client to another healthcare provider if needed. Midwives keep families safe by offering the same standard of care by offering options and discussing ultrasounds, lab work, and other suggested testing.

I am in favor of HB 496 bill to support Ohio Midwives

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