

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

Hello, my name is Lois Zins. Proud mother of 2 - a 3 year old and a 6 week old. Both of my children were born at home, under the guidance of trained midwives. I met with the midwives who were present at my home births, for the 9 months preceding their births. At those visits we discussed everything from my diet to exercises to my lack of sleep in the 1st trimester to any other concerns that may come up during our hour of time together. I couldn't be happier with my choice to choose midwives over traditional care. Being able to labor and birth my children in the comfort of my own home surrounded by the people I wanted to be there is exactly what I wanted - the midwives facilitated by being the most caring, knowledgeable, and thoughtful group of women.

I support the licensing and regulating of midwives in Ohio because I was able to labor and birth my children at home. I was fortunate that I did not have to transfer to a hospital, that I did not need emergency care. If I did - I would want my midwives to be a part of my transfer team and be there to help guide me in decisions. There is a trust built up over the course of close to a year - the midwives know me and my birth plan - when care needs to be transferred - they should still be a part of the team helping the mother make the best decisions for her.

Why do I support HB 496 - because I'm an American and I deserve the right to choose the care I want to bring my children into the world.

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