

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 Biomedical Engineer in Maumee Ohio, working as a Product Development Engineer for a medical device company. This field requires adequate knowledge and recourses when it comes to medical regulations during and after the development of devices. Driving this knowledge is the testing, verification, validation, and risk-benefit examination that comes with every new idea in order to provide the adequate support. With my understanding of this process and the risk-benefit method, I support any bill that yields better access, regulation and care choices for pregnant women to midwifery. As a soon to be mother, I am motivated to make the best possible decisions for my unborn child. During pregnancy, I have followed the best practices in my personal care, diet, exercise, and all other factors I can control. I want my midwife to be able to provide me and my child with the most sufficient care when the time comes to welcome him/her into this world. If that means the intervention of medicine, midwives should be able to provide such assistance.

This bill provides important safety measures to improve the health and outcomes for women and babies. Specifically, midwives will have access to emergency medications. Additionally, the hospital staff will recognize midwives as legal providers that will facilitate safe and healthy transfers. Midwives will be regulated appropriately with this new legislation to insure highest quality of care in the field. For my family, midwifery care, with holistic and natural principles, aligned with our values and desires. It is important to me that we not limit birth choices, but we make safe and healthy options more widely available,

With my knowledge in medical development and first pregnancy experiences backing my decision, I am in full support of HB 496.

Mackenzie Vocke