

*Testimony submitted via email.*

Hello,

My name is Diana Esquerra, and I support the HB 2015 bill for the reimbursement for doula work in the hospital system.

I am in favor of HB 2015 because doulas are an evidence-based practice and thus we should bolster the effort to integrate doulas into the health care system, especially for Medicaid clients, as this will improve health outcomes, provide greater quality of care, and reduce health care costs.

I am in favor of HB 2015 because of the need to increase the reimbursement floor in order to incentivize the doula work force, especially for doulas culturally matched to the prioritized populations.

I am in favor for HB 2015 because there is a need to create accountability by the health care system to honor the contractual obligation to provide doula services and the need for greater support by Oregon Health Authority to implement the services.

I am in favor of HB 2015 because of the need to track implementation of the various components of the doula services program, to continually assess the workforce needs, and to address any barriers to clients being served.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Diana Esquerra