

*Testimony submitted via email.*

My wife is a Certified and State Registered Doula and Community Health Worker in Jackson County, and I am writing to tell you that I am in favor of HB 2015.

As a partner of a member of the Oregon Doula Association's work committee and founding member of the Southern Oregon Doulas, I am aware of how valuable the care Doulas provide is. 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, provided greater quality of care, and reduce health care costs. Doulas are extensively trained Professionals, and I know they are strongly advocating for this bill to "increase the reimbursement floor in order to incentivize the doula work force, especially for doulas culturally matched to the prioritized populations." This creates sustainability within the career and better guarantees the availability and commitment of Professional Doulas available to serve the prioritized populations. Doulas are also an integral part of the birth team with staff at hospitals, Doctors, Midwives, and the CCOs who provide essential care to families. To be better seen as part of the whole, Doulas need this bill "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." This includes having a direct pathway for billing and reimbursement, as well a "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 SO MUCH.

-MAZ