

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

7/18/2019

RESOLUTION 2019.19

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to the PeaceHealth Nurse Midwifery Birth Center

WHEREAS, in *The Register-Guard* on May 8th, the community learned of PeaceHealth Oregon's plan to close the accredited and freestanding Nurse Midwifery Birth Center in Springfield at the end of August 2019; and

WHEREAS, PeaceHealth Oregon has refused to consult the Nurse Midwifery Birth Center staff or the Lane County Friends of the Birth Center consumer advisory group; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Midwifery Birth Center, serving the community since the 1970s and having achieved national accreditation and international certification for evidence-based lactation support, is the only community practice providing out-of-hospital and in-hospital birth; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, community members raised 64.5% of the funds needed to build current Nurse Midwifery Birth Center building in Springfield, next to RiverBend; and

WHEREAS, the PeaceHealth Nurse Midwifery Birth Center offers critical services beyond birth itself, including overall well-woman care, prenatal care, lactation support, postpartum care; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Midwifery Birth Center’s low-intervention model of care is a proven corrective to outcomes that contribute to the high U.S. maternal mortality rate, which has doubled since 1991 and is still rising; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Midwifery Birth Center fosters a robust community healthcare practice, wherein newborns and parents have regular contact with healthcare providers and peers, which facilitates early intervention into postpartum depression and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Midwifery Birth Center staff operate the Lane County Community Health Clinic’s prenatal clinic ensuring Medicaid-insured women receive excellent full-spectrum care before, during, after birth; and

WHEREAS, the closure of the Nurse Midwifery Birth Center will shift significant increases in costs to families and insurers at a time when the cost of healthcare is a barrier to access for so many families; and

WHEREAS, there are 11 Certified Nurse Midwives, 6 Registered Nurses, 2 Medical Assistants, 2 receptionists, 1 manager and 1 admin support/childbirth educator who will no longer have jobs;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: To include explicit acknowledgment of the need for ongoing, uninterrupted community access to the accredited, freestanding Nurse Midwifery Birth Center in the Party's on-going healthcare advocacy.

SECTION 2: To communicate our support of keeping open the Peace Health Medical Group Nurse Midwifery Birth Center to the Lane County Commissioners, to

PeaceHeath Oregon and to the appropriate committees and Members of the Oregon Senate and Oregon House of Representatives.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, July 18, 2019**