

EVERY PREGNANT PERSON DESERVES A DOULA

H.1240 / S.782



Let's pass an Act Relative to Medicaid Coverage for Doula Services to ensure that doulas are available to the communities most impacted by inequities in maternal health.

WHAT IS A DOULA?

Doulas are nonmedically trained professionals who provide emotional, physical, and informational support and guidance during the prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum period.

Community-Based Doulas are typically from the same community as the client, with deeper cultural knowledge and awareness of resources. Access to doulas that share a client's racial and cultural identity strengthens patient experiences and outcomes.

WHY DO WE NEED COVERAGE?



REDUCE RACIAL DISPARITIES

Black people face higher rates of mortality, morbidity, and infant mortality from pregnancy related causes compared to white birthing people in Massachusetts.



DECREASE OUT OF POCKET COSTS

In Massachusetts, doula support is primarily paid out of pocket making it inaccessible for people who need doula support most.



IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

Doula support is shown to positively impact maternal and infant health outcomes while reducing health care costs.

WHY THIS BILL?

An Act Relative to Medicaid Coverage for Doula Services (H.1240/S.782) was filed by Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa & Sen. Liz Miranda.

The Massachusetts Doula Coalition gathered community feedback via townhalls and surveys to inform this bill.


This bill will:

- Require that MassHealth cover doula services
- Invest in expanding the size and diversity of the doula workforce in Massachusetts
- Ensure doulas can access training tailored to serving the heightened needs of marginalized communities
- Amend the Patient Bill of Rights to give patients the right to have their doula present during labor and delivery
- Create a Doula Advisory Committee charged with ensuring MassHealth's doula coverage is effective, sustainable, and reduces racial inequities in birth outcomes

TAKE ACTION WITH US

Your voice and advocacy make a difference.

- Call your elected representatives and ask them to co-sponsor and support HD.2452/SD.1638
- Raise awareness about doulas with your networks by sharing this information.
- Use the #SupportDoulaInMA and #MADoCo to spread awareness on social media.

 Gentle Reminder: Health inequities caused by racism cannot be addressed by doulas alone. Community Doula support is one critical step among many that we can take to improve address racial disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity.



Questions? Email us at madoulacoalition@gmail.com