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4/17/2025

Senator Ingwersen, Chair  
Representative Meyer, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

*Re: LD 376 – An Act to Improve Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes Through Doula Care*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide information in opposition of LD 376, *An Act to Improve Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes Through Doula Care*.

This bill requires reimbursement under the MaineCare program for doula services by January 1, 2026. The Department agrees that doula services would provide additional prenatal, labor, and postnatal support to MaineCare members, and is already undertaking this work under a recent federal award to the Office of MaineCare Services, called “Transforming Maternal Health” (TMaH), described in more detail below. In addition, this bill, provides insufficient time to design and implement doula services and does not align with the timing or expectations of related work under TMaH. The TMaH workplan, partner engagement activities, and financial resources are necessary for the successful implementation of MaineCare coverage of doulas.

In January 2025, the Office of MaineCare Services was awarded participation in the TMaH model with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. All state Medicaid agencies participating in the TMaH Model are required to cover or have a concrete plan to cover doula services by the end of 2027. To get to the point of doula coverage, the Office of MaineCare Services will follow a defined workplan, beginning with the establishment of a Statewide Doula Council in mid-2025. This multidisciplinary, multisector Statewide Doula Council will be responsible for the identification of training and/or certification provider requirements and doula service delivery/coordination requirements. Broader work will be funded by the federal award to design outreach and education to the community at large about doula coverage through MaineCare.

Over the next number of years, in addition to this outreach and education, the Department will conduct a rate determination, request the appropriate federal approval, and conduct state rulemaking to implement doula coverage. The Department will also determine the need for state appropriation to align with more concrete implementation dates and reimbursement amounts.

The Department encourages the committee to support the Department’s rollout of doula services as a component of the TMaH Model in alignment with approved federal cooperative agreement

timeline and with adequate appropriation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,



Michelle Probert  
Director  
Office of MaineCare Services  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services