

2020 FEDERAL BILLS RELATED TO DOULA SERVICES					
BILL NUMBER	TITLE	AUTHOR or PRIMARY SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	LAST DATE UPDATED
S 3826	TRICARE Coverage for Doula Support Act	Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)	<p>This bill directs the Department of Defense (DOD) to provide TRICARE beneficiaries additional resources for prenatal and postnatal communication and education, including doula support. TRICARE beneficiaries are uniquely positioned to maximize the benefits of doula support due to the nature of training, deployments, frequent permanent changes of station, and other mission requirements that can contribute to isolation during pregnancy and birth, or prevent birthing partners from being present during childbirth. DOD shall conduct a specified survey on members or spouses of such members of the Armed Forces who give birth.</p> <p>The bill defines a doula as an individual who is trained to provide non-medical advice, information, emotional support, and physical comfort to an individual during the individual's pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum period by an organization that has been established for not less than five years and that requires the completion of continuing education.</p>	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services	5/21/2020
S 3424	Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2020	Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA)	This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other agencies to address maternal health outcomes among minority populations. This includes giving multiple grants that provide support for doula services and doula training; giving guidance to states on how to encourage and incentivize health systems to incorporate doula services; creating multiple maternal health task forces that include non-clinical birth support workers like doulas; and providing doula access for incarcerated individuals.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	3/10/2020
S 3443	Improving Coverage and Care for Mothers Act	Sen. Bob Casey Jr. (D-PA)	<p>This bill expands the scope of Medicaid coverage of pregnant women, including by extending coverage to all pregnant women regardless of otherwise applicable requirements, requiring one year of postpartum coverage, and expanding coverage to include services provided by doulas, midwives, and lactation consultants.</p> <p>The bill defines a doula as someone certified by an organization, which has been established for not less than 5 years and which requires the completion of continuing education to maintain such certification, to provide non-medical advice, information, emotional support, and physical comfort to an individual during such individual's pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum period; and who maintains such certification by completing such required continuing education.</p>	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance	3/11/2020
HR 6164	Perinatal Workforce Act of 2020	Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)	This bill directs HHS to issue guidance to states regarding the value and process of delivering respectful maternal health care through diverse care provider models, including doula services. The bill also provides for grants to grow and diversify the perinatal workforce by expanding and establishing training programs, including for doulas.	Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce	3/10/2020
HR 6144	Kira Johnson Act	Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC)	This bill directs HHS to award grants to improve outcomes and reduce bias, racism, and discrimination in maternal care settings, including grants that focus on providing doula services and doula training.	Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce	3/9/2020
HR 6137	IMPACT to Save Moms Act of 2020	Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)	This bill requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to establish the Perinatal Care Alternative Payment Model Demonstration Project to allow states to test payment models for maternity care, including nonclinical care like doula services, under Medicaid.	Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce	3/9/2020
S 3376	Pathways to Health Careers Act	Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	This bill extends, revises, and provides funds for certain demonstration grant programs to train low-income individuals for jobs considered part of the health care career pathway. It allows for doula training programs in states that formally recognize doulas. The bill defines doulas as someone who is certified by an organization that has been established for not less than 5 years and that requires the completion of continuing education to maintain the certification, to provide non-medical advice, information, emotional support, and physical comfort to an individual during the individual's pregnancy, childbirth, and post-partum period; and who maintains the certification by completing the required continuing education.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance	3/3/2020
HR 8027	Maternal Health Pandemic Response Act of 2020	Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL)	This bill addresses maternal health during the COVID-19 emergency and provides for a task force to give recommendations to ensure quality, provide nondiscriminatory maternity care, promote positive birthing experiences, and improve maternal health outcomes during the public health emergency, with a particular focus on outcomes for communities of color and rural populations. Such guidelines and recommendations include support for doula services.	Referred to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States	9/4/2020

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HR 4996	Helping MOMS Act of 2020	Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL)	This bill focuses on pregnancy related provisions in Medicaid, and it directs MACPAC to publish a report on the coverage of doula services on Medicaid. The report must include information about States that already cover doulas, barriers to covering doulas on Medicaid, strategies to increase the use of doula services, and recommendations for ways to increase access to doula services in Medicaid - including how to ensure doulas earn a living wage.	Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance	9/30/2020
S 4769	Maternal Health Pandemic Response Act of 2020	Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)	Companion to HR 8027. This bill addresses maternal health during the COVID-19 emergency. It focuses on data collection specifically related to COVID-19 and pregnancy, and provides for a task force to develop recommendations to ensure quality, provide nondiscriminatory maternity care, promote positive birthing experiences, and improve maternal health outcomes during the public health emergency, with a particular focus on outcomes for communities of color and rural populations. Such guidelines and recommendations include support for doula services.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	9/30/2020
S 4753	DOULA for VA Act of 2020	Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)	This bill requires the VA to establish a five-year pilot program to provide doula services to pregnant veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system. The pilot program covers up to four sessions before delivery, labor and delivery support, and up to four postpartum sessions. An Advisory Committee will be established to among other duties, recommend payment, which cannot exceed \$3,500.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs	9/29/2020
S 4819	Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2020	Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	This bill directs HHS and others to undertake efforts to reduce health disparities. The bill includes grants to support doula services and doula training programs, it requires that doulas be considered in data gathering and reporting efforts, and it expands allowed Medicaid innovation models to include doula services.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance	10/20/2020