

# Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA)

## Testimony on S. 109



**Sam Peisch, MPH**  
**Health Policy Analyst**

**Wednesday, March 25**



# Shy's Story



# HCA Position: Support S. 109



- Strong evidence base for reducing health disparities in maternal and child health outcomes
- Cost-effective
- Safe
- Aligned with Vermont's health reform efforts

# Research Snapshot: Cost Effectiveness



"Based on associations between doula care and preterm and cesarean birth, coverage reimbursement for doula services would likely be cost saving or cost effective for state Medicaid programs."

- 2017 scoping review, *Birth*

# Research Snapshot: Cost Effectiveness



"Sensitivity analyses demonstrated a professional doula was potentially cost-saving up to \$884 and cost-effective up to \$1360 per doula...the cost-effectiveness estimate is likely conservative...highlighting the need for higher doula care reimbursement."

- 2019 study, *Journal of Midwifery and Womens Health*

# Mechanisms for Impact



- Filling knowledge gaps before, during and after delivery
- Advocating for patient need
- Improved communication between patient and provider
- Psychological and mental health support can reduce anxiety, fear, depression
- Often provide critical link to additional social supports: food, housing and follow-up support groups



# Appendix

**Table 1. Summary of Medicaid Reimbursement Policies in States Covering Doula Services<sup>37,38</sup>**

State	Prenatal Visit Coverage	Postpartum Visit Coverage	Delivery Coverage	Total Reimbursement
District of Columbia <sup>39</sup>	Covers 12 total visits, \$97 per prenatal visit and up to \$291 (maximum of 6 hours at \$49 per hour) for postpartum visit, additional \$100 incentive for timely postpartum visit		Flat rate of \$686	\$1,565 under a scenario with 5 prenatal, delivery attendance, and 6 postpartum visits that last one hour each with incentive payment
Florida <sup>40</sup>	Number of covered visits varies by plan	Number of covered visits varies by plan	Coverage varies by plan	Varies by Medicaid Managed Care plan, usually \$400 - \$1,110
Maryland <sup>41</sup>	Covers 4 visits, up to \$65 per visit	Covers 4 visits, up to \$79 per visit	Flat rate of \$350	Up to \$930 if all potential visits are reimbursed
Minnesota <sup>42</sup>	Covers 6 total visits, \$47 per visit		Flat rate of \$488	Up to \$770 if all potential visits are reimbursed
New Jersey <sup>43</sup>	Covers 12 total visits, up to \$66 per visit and \$100 for initial visit, additional \$100 incentive for an initial postpartum visit		Flat rate of \$235	Up to \$1,166 across all visits, up to \$1266 with incentive payment
Nevada <sup>44</sup>	Covers 4 total visits, \$50 per visit		Flat rate of \$150	Up to \$350 across all visits
Oregon <sup>45</sup>	Covers 4 total visits, \$50 per visit		Flat rate of \$150	Up to \$350 across all visits
Rhode Island <sup>46</sup>	Covers 3 visits, \$100 per visit	Covers 3 visits, \$100 per visit	Flat rate of \$900	Up to \$1,500 across all visits
Virginia <sup>47</sup>	Covers 8 total visits, additional \$100 in incentives available		Covered, unspecified amount	Up to \$859 across all visits, up to \$959 with incentive payments

**Note:** The table includes the eight states and the District of Columbia actively reimbursing doula services in Medicaid, as of October 16, 2022. Rounded to nearest dollar.



# References



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