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Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 343 proposes that the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance must present a plan to the General Assembly by November 1, 2022 for coverage of doula services by Medicaid providers.

WHEREAS, doulas provide mothers and parents with little experience and poor support systems with physical, emotional, and educational support during pregnancy, birth, and the immediate postpartum period. Currently, Medicaid does not cover doula services which have been shown to decrease the need for Cesarean sections, duration of labor, traumatizing experiences, and need for pain relief medication; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington ranks highest across indicators for negative child and maternal health outcomes. There are also persistently high poverty rates. Medicaid recipients, who have limited income and are more likely to lack strong family support systems during the pregnancy process have an imminent need for the hands-on support offered by doulas. Covering the costs of doulas for Medicaid recipients is an opportunity to make major advances in the fight to improve child and maternal health in the State of Delaware.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Council is in favor of HB No. 343 which aims to lay the groundwork for coverage of doula services by Medicaid providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council encourages members of the Delaware General Assembly to support the passage of HB No. 343.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution encourages members of the Delaware General Assembly to support the passage of House Bill No. 343, which requires that the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance present a plan to the General Assembly by November 1, 2022 for coverage of doula services by Medicaid providers. Doulas aid mothers and parents with little experience and poor support systems for physical, emotional, and educational support during pregnancy, birth, and the immediate postpartum period.