

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a constituent of Dayton Ohio. I am also a public health worker in maternal and child health, as well as a trained doula. I have worked for the past 3+ years with pregnant and postpartum people at WIC (USDA Women, Infants, and Children). I have taken many in person trainings and attended many webinars about the birth inequities women of color experience. Along with hearing and seeing firsthand abhorrent birth stories.

Research upon research shows that having Anyone in the room with a birthing person, who is not the primary care provider helps to improve birth outcomes and satisfaction. Helps improve breastfeeding outcomes which in turn improves health outcomes for communities. So then having a trained birth professional who attends the Entire birth (does not work in shifts like a nurse or doctor) can Greatly Impact birth outcomes. Greatly impacts need for medical birth interventions and cesarean sections- a major surgery that takes far longer to recover from than vaginal birth. Therefore preventing the birthing person from returning to the work force.

As a Public Health professional, a mother, and a constituent, I Beg You; pass this bill. ALL birthing people deserve a doula. People in poverty Especially deserve a doula.

Thank you for reading,

Jessica Fecke
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