

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIVES-OHIO
SUPPORTS MEDICAID COVERAGE OF DOULAS**

Dear Insurance Committee Members;

We, the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives-Ohio Chapter, understand that there are severe inequities in birth outcomes in the United States and that Ohio is in line with the national numbers with some areas, such as urban Cincinnati, having consistently worse statistics.

The U.S. is, in fact, 27th in the world for maternal morbidity and mortality. Birthing People of Color suffer at FOUR TIMES the rate of their white counterparts and babies born to Black mothers are TWICE AS LIKELY TO DIE before their first birthday.

Numerous clinical trials show that the support of a doula improves maternal and infant health outcomes and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists promotes the benefits of doulas stating:

“Published data indicate that one of the most effective tools to improve labor and delivery outcomes is the continuous presence of support personnel, such as a doula. Given that there are no associated measurable harms, this resource is probably underutilized” (ACOG and the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, 2014).

Medicaid coverage would be a positive step in making doula support available for many more Ohioans and may positively impact outcomes.

NACPM-Ohio urges you to show your support for HB 611.

Sincerely,

Board of NACPM-Ohio

Pam Bell, Brie Hammer, Lauren Genter, Eliza Kay, April Kline