

Chairmen,

I am writing in regards to this VERY important Bill 611. I have first hand seen SO many birthing mothers/persons succeed in their births with a doula by their side verses without one. Birth is not just considered a success when both the mother and child have survived. Doulas give birthing women/people a voice during one of the most crucial, vulnerable events of their lives. It has been proven thousands of times at this point that not only do doulas assist in protecting the birthing mothers/persons birth rights and help keeping them on track with their birth plans but when their birth plans don't go as expected they are still greatly supported in many more ways than just physically. There are substantial numbers statistically that have proven that when a doula is present the birthing mothers/persons chance of postpartum depression is greatly lessened, the success rate of breast feeding is greater and over all the stress for both the birthing mother/person and partner are lessened. Doublas are not just there for the birthing woman/people. They relieve the birthing woman's/persons partner and even their children when necessary which then lessens the amount of stress on the birthing mother/person. All in all, making doulas more financially accessible will do nothing more than improve every birthing community in more ways that you just can measure by profit.

Taylor Cooper
Mother of 3 and supporter of doulas
Muskingum County Resident