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Rep. Susan Manchester
Chairperson
Families, Aging, and Human Services
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Chair Manchester, Vice-Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 142, which will allow Medicaid to reimburse for doula services. My name is Mike Moroski and I work with Cradle Cincinnati as their Policy Manager.

In Hamilton County we have seen a strong desire among Black Women to have access to Doula services. Data suggests that Doulas reduce the stressors of pregnancy; particularly in the Black community. Being that Black infant mortality is much higher than white infant mortality, we believe any way we can mitigate extreme preterm birth is essential to reducing this disparity. Extreme preterm birth is the number one driver of infant death, and stress is a major contributor to extreme preterm birth. Again, data suggests that Doulas reduce the stress of pregnancy and are a best-practice for a healthy birth and delivery. As such, we adamantly support the passage of HB 142.

Thank you again for the opportunity to write to you on behalf of this legislation.

Respectfully,

Mike Moroski
Policy Manager
Cradle Cincinnati