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Senate Health Committee

House Bill 142 – Proponent Testimony

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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Substitute House Bill 142.

Sub. House Bill 142 would create a five-year pilot program in the Ohio Department of Medicaid to provide reimbursement for doula services. Certified doulas would be registered with the Board of Nursing to be eligible for reimbursement. Over the pilot program period, the department will issue annual reports regarding program outcomes.

Counties recognize that children who are born healthy and grow up in healthy, safe environments have better physical and mental health throughout their lives. Studies show that doula services during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum provide positive outcomes for babies and mothers, including reduces rates of prematurity and illness in newborns, and the likelihood of postpartum depression. Mothers using Medicaid currently have to pay out of pocket for this service, which is out of reach for many. Expanding the availability of services that result in healthier babies is a helpful tool in prenatal-to-three work, and will strengthen communities long term.

CCAO supports this legislation and respectfully asks the committee to favorably report Sub. House Bill 142.

