

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Liz Miranda and Lindsay N. Sabadosa

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to Medicaid coverage for doula services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>
<i>Daniel R. Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>

<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to Medicaid coverage for doula services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting at
2 the end of Section 10J the following new Section:-

3 SECTION 10K: Medicaid Coverage for Doula Services

4 (1) For purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:

5 “Authority”, Massachusetts Health and Human Services.

6 “A Perinatal Doula” or referred to hereafter as “doula”, a trained professional who
7 provides physical, emotional, and educational support - but not medical care - to mothers before,
8 during, and after childbirth, otherwise known as the perinatal period. Doulas also provide
9 assistance with connecting childbearing individuals to Community-Based Organization (CBOs).

10 “Community-Based Organization (CBO)”, a public or private nonprofit organization that
11 is representative of a community or significant segments of a community and engaged in meeting
12 that community’s needs in the areas of social, human, or health services.

13 “Contact Hour”, an hour of classroom, group, or distance learning training. Contact hour
14 does not include homework time, preparatory reading, or practicum.

15 “Doula Certification Organization”, an entity nationally or internationally recognized for
16 training and certifying birth doulas whose educational requirements includes the core curriculum
17 topics described in these rules. Examples of a Doula Certification Organization include the
18 International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA), the Doulas of North America (DONA),
19 the Association of Labor Assistants and Childbirth Educators (ALACE), Birthworks, the
20 Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPPA), Childbirth International, the
21 International Center for Traditional Childbearing, or Commonsense Childbirth, Inc.

22 "Registry", a list maintained by the Authority.

23 “Competencies”, key skills and applied knowledge necessary for doulas to be effective in
24 the work field and carry out their roles.

25 (2) Coverage of Doula Services:

26 Doula services are eligible for coverage throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
27 for childbearing individuals through private insurance and MassHealth.

28 Doula services may be covered by MassHealth after doulas have completed the
29 following:

30 (1) applying for and being given a National Provider Identification Number (NPI#); (2)
31 Completing and receiving approval for all required MassHealth Provider Enrollment forms; (3)
32 Providing a copy of a doula training certificate or an original signed and dated letter from the
33 Doula Certification Organization verifying that the doula has attended and completed the training

34 or curriculum of the Doula Certification Organization. To be considered authentic, this letter
35 must be on the organization’s letterhead and signed by the organization’s authorizing
36 representative; (4) Providing a signed and dated attestation of receiving training the following
37 competencies through one program or a combination of programs that results in meeting all
38 requirements:

39 (i) At least 24 contact hours of in-person education that includes any combination of
40 childbirth education, birth doula training, antepartum doula trainings, and postpartum doula
41 training;

42 (ii) Attendance at a minimum of one (1) breastfeeding class;

43 (iii) Attendance at a minimum of two (2) childbirth classes;

44 (iv) Attendance at a minimum of two (2) births;

45 (v) At least one positive reference from a birthing parent and at least one positive
46 reference from a medical provider or midwife;

47 (vi) Completion of cultural competency training;

48 (vii) Completion of HIPAA/client confidentiality training; and

49 (viii) Completion of CPR certification for children and adults

50 A doula may also be a “Certified Community Health Worker” (as defined by MGL,
51 Chapter 112, Section 259). A doula would need to complete additional requirements above (1-4)
52 to be eligible to receive payment for doula services through MassHealth.

53 Once enrolled as a MassHealth provider, a doula will be eligible to enroll as a provider
54 with Fee-For-Service, Managed Care, and Accountable Care payers, affiliated with MassHealth.

55 In order to follow federal Medicaid requirements applicable to covered services, doula
56 services will be reimbursed on a Fee-For-Service schedule.

57 (3) Establishing a Statewide Registry of Perinatal Doulas:

58 Individuals seeking enrollment of a statewide registry of perinatal doulas shall: (a) be at
59 least 18 years of age; (b) not be listed on the MassHealth provider exclusion list; (c) successfully
60 complete training in all competencies as outlined in Section II; (d) successfully complete a
61 vetting process to be listed on the registry that includes positive client references and evaluations
62 of quality job performance by a medical provider or midwife; (e) receive and maintain
63 certification by an approved Doula Certification Organization; (e) maintain personal liability
64 insurance either individually or through a collaborative, association, or business of doulas that
65 can prove liability insurance coverage for all doulas working through, with or under them.

66 (4) Payment for Doula Services:

67 The coverage available for doula services per pregnancy, regardless of the number of
68 infants involved, which shall be billed on a fee-for-service basis, shall not exceed \$1,500.00, and
69 shall be eligible towards the following activities: prenatal visits, physical and emotional support
70 during a childbearing individual's labor and birth, telephone or virtual communications between
71 doula and client, time spent being on call for the birth, postpartum visits, and time spent on
72 administrative time, such as documentation or paperwork.

73 (5) Establishing Rules and Regulations:

74 The commissioner of health and the commissioner of social services shall add, amend
75 and/or repeal any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act.

76 (6) Seeking Amendments:

77 The commissioner of health is directed to apply for such state Medicaid plan amendments
78 or waivers as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act and include perinatal
79 doula care as a covered service under the state Medicaid plan, and to secure federal financial
80 participation for state Medicaid expenditures for doula care under the federal Medicaid program.