



March 20th, 2023

Representative/Senator
Chair, Committee
State Office Building/Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 5515

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee;

The Doulas of Duluth, a team of seven birth doulas, postpartum doulas and birth educators is enthusiastic to support HF 2846 / SF 2923, increasing the medical assistance reimbursement rates for doula services. We must improve birth equity and maternal and child birth outcomes in our country and in our state, doulas can be a huge part of that change.

In 2022, the MN Department of Health released its 1st Maternal Mortality report that highlighted disparate health outcomes for Black and Indigenous Minnesotans. Black birthing people are more than twice as likely to die due to pregnancy related complications and Black babies are more than twice as likely to die before their 1st birthday. Culturally congruent and community based doulas are PROVEN to lower racial disparities in healthcare by improving health outcomes, increasing breastfeeding rates, reducing childbirth complications, and reestablishing the relationship between historically marginalized communities and the medical industrial complex.

Our vision at the Doulas of Duluth is to deconstruct the systems of white supremacy and racism within health care, creating opportunities for equitable access to doula care through education and doula support. Our mission is to create a diverse, sustainable birth doula workforce while simultaneously increasing access to doula services in our community. We cannot do this alone, approving a bill to increase the reimbursement rate for doulas in our beautiful state, will not only create more access to doula care for historically marginalized communities, it will also break down the barriers for a diverse pool of doulas in all of Minnesota communities.

Please join us and many others in supporting HF 2846 / SF 2923 to sustain the workforce that is actively promoting healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes, and healthy babies.

Thank you,

Dana Morrison
& the entire team at Doulas of Duluth