



Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
231 State Capitol
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 21, 2023

Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

UCare is proud to support SF 2923, which increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for doula services. UCare is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health coverage and services across Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Working in partnership with health care providers and community organizations, UCare serves more than 650,000 members with over 470,000 enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs, such as MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance.

Numerous studies have documented the benefits of doulas. Women report having a more positive childbirth experience when a doula is present at their birth. Studies have shown that having a doula as a member of the birth team decreases the overall cesarean rate by 50%, the length of labor by 25%, the use of oxytocin by 40%, and requests for an epidural by 60%. This means that doulas are key in preventing more expensive care and protecting the health of Minnesotans. Doulas have been critical in positive birth experiences for BIPOC Minnesotans. Increasing reimbursement rates for doulas is a critical need to help solve the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis for BIPOC Minnesotans.

UCare is proud to support SF 2923 to provide better and healthier birthing experiences in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ghita Worcester".

Ghita Worcester

Executive Vice President, Public Affairs and Chief Growth Officer