Birth Justice Collaborative

March 4, 2026

Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Re: SF3768/HF3779

Dear Chair Kleine and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

The Birth Justice Collaborative strongly supports SF3768/HF3779, legislation requiring Minnesota health plans to cover doula services provided by a doula of the pregnant person's choice. As a coalition led by African American and American Indian partners advancing maternal health equity across the state, we believe this bill is an important step toward a more supportive and responsive maternal health system. Expanding comprehensive coverage of doula services will strengthen families, improve birth outcomes, and help ensure healthier pregnancies, safer births, and thriving communities across Minnesota.

Across Minnesota, families benefit from the presence of trained doulas who provide childbirth and cultural education, physical comfort measures, and postpartum guidance during one of the most critical periods in a family's life. Research consistently demonstrates that culturally aligned doula care improves birth outcomes, reduces unnecessary medical interventions, and decreases adverse birth experiences. Doulas also play a vital role in helping new mothers navigate complex healthcare systems, advocate for their needs, and build confidence during pregnancy, labor, and postpartum recovery.

SF3768/HF3779 would help close gaps to access by ensuring that all health plans cover doula services without deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, referral requirements, or arbitrary limits. By doing so, the bill affirms that **supportive care during pregnancy and birth is a fundamental component of quality maternity care**.

For communities most impacted by maternal health disparities- particularly American Indian and African American communities - doula care can be especially transformative. Doulas often provide culturally grounded, relationship-based support that strengthens trust between families and the healthcare system. Expanding coverage will help ensure that more families can access the type of care that honors their cultural values, respects their autonomy, and improves health outcomes for both parents and babies.

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to pass this important legislation and expand access to doula care for families across our state.

The Birth Justice Collaborative
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