



July 20, 2026

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Michlewitz,

We are members of the Massachusetts Mind the Gap Coalition, a group of health care organizations, nonprofits, community-based organizations, mental health and maternity care providers, survivors and other advocates supported by Postpartum Support International's Mind the Gap initiative, working to improve state policies around Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADs). We are writing to urge your favorable release of H.4344, *An Act Relative to Insurance Coverage for Doula Services* from House Ways and Means.

Mind the Gap is profoundly grateful for the Legislature's groundbreaking maternal health policy improvements in the '24 omnibus bill, including codifying MassHealth doula coverage. H.4344 would expand this coverage to include private health insurers in Massachusetts. Doulas play a critical role in improving maternal and infant health outcomes, and in supporting patients throughout pregnancy, labor, delivery, and the postpartum period. Expanding access to doula services through private insurance coverage would help ensure that more people across the Commonwealth can benefit from this evidence-based support, regardless of their insurance status.

As perinatal mental health advocates, we also urge you to support H.4344 because of its mental health benefits. Traumatic birth, birth complications, pre-term birth, and a lack of social support are all risk factors for PMADs, making doula care protective for mental as well as physical health. Additionally, postpartum support from doulas fills in a concerning lack of care during a vulnerable time period. Most birthing people only attend one 6-week postpartum visit with their maternity care provider, despite the fact that two-thirds of pregnancy-related deaths occur postpartum. Doulas can provide resources, screen for mental health concerns, and flag medical issues before they become dangerous. Moreover, a positive, supported birth and postpartum has far-reaching implications for starting family life on a strong, healthy footing.

We hope you can support this important legislation with a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Accompany Doula Care
AllPaths Family Building*

Bay State Birth Coalition*
 Belle Joie Doula Services*
 Better Beginnings Birth Services
 Beyond Birthing
 Brazelton Touchpoints Project
 Chamber of Mothers
 The Cord Foundation
 D. Legacy Pacesetters
 Daughters of Yahweh Community Outreach*
 Dorchester CARES Coalition
 The EMA Project*
 Empty Arms Bereavement Support
 Fathers' UpLift, Inc.
 Flourish Care
 Golden Flor Wellness
 GPS Group Peer Support
 Health Care for All
 HELD Doula Services
 Homecare & Beyond
 It Takes a Village
 Lifeline for Families Center and the Lifeline for
 Moms Program at UMass Chan Medical School
 MA Mom Advocates (MAMA) Corp.
 March of Dimes, Boston/New England Market*
 Massachusetts Affiliate of American College of
 Nurse Midwives
 Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental
 Health (MassAIMH)
 Massachusetts Babies Coalition

Massachusetts Doula Coalition
 Massachusetts Health & Hospital
 Association
 Massachusetts Medical Society
 Massachusetts Section of the American
 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
 (Mass.
 ACOG)
 Massachusetts Section of the Association of
 Women's Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal
 Nurses
 Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of
 Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)
 Melanin Mass Moms
 MomsRising
 NeighborHealth
 Neighborhood Birth Center
 North Shore Postpartum Help
 Nurses for Black Maternal Health and
 Equity
 Organization
 Perspectives Health Services, LLC
 Postpartum Support International of
 Massachusetts
 Propa City Community Outreach*
 Reproductive Equity Now
 Sacred Birthing Village
 Springfield Community-Based Doula
 Initiative
 Women of Color Health Equity Collective
 YW Boston

*Mass. Mind the Gap Coalition Steering Committee Member

Bay State Birth Coalition* Belle Joie Doula Services*

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