



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Better Support for Moms and Babies Under Senate Bill 692 Aims to Save Lives and Build Futures

New funding and insurance rules widen access to doulas, lactation educators, and lactation counselors

SALEM, OR – Community-based workers who provide support, comfort, education, and advocacy for people during pregnancy, childbirth, and a baby’s first year can be crucial for keeping parents and children healthy and thriving over the long term.

Legislation passed in the Oregon Senate yesterday puts this type of assistance within reach of more families, requiring health plans to cover the services and making important investments in the workforce that provides this kind of assistance: doulas, lactation educators, and lactation counselors.

“Senate Bill 692 is all about giving parents a better birth experience, giving babies a better start in life, giving doulas and lactation professionals additional support, and making Oregon’s future just a little bit brighter,” said **Senator Lisa Reynolds, MD (D – Portland)**, chief sponsor of the measure.

Under Senate Bill 692, the Oregon Health Plan and commercial health insurance policies must offer members at least 24 hours of doula or lactation services before or after the birth a baby as well as during a birth. The bill also lowers administrative barriers to accessing the services, removing requirements for referrals from doctors or prior authorization.

To support the workforce doing this vital work, the bill also sets payment standards for doulas and lactation professionals and establishes a grant program to fund training, outreach, or technical assistance for the workforce.

Nine Republicans joined Senate Democrats in supporting Senate Bill 692. The measure passed in a vote of 26 to 3.

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