

*Testimony submitted via email.*

Good Day,

I am so glad you are tackling the issue of the Doula Workforce. We must financially incentivize these caring individuals if we are going to be providing the evidenced based benefits of Doula services.

I have been a certified nurse midwife practicing in Curry County since 1978. The only thing that is prohibiting moving Doula Services forward for low income women is adequate reimbursement for the Doula workforce. Doula services in urban areas are an elite service that higher income folks can afford and pay for. Check out the rates of urban Doulas!

However, I have done some quick calculations. Here are some examples of hourly wages that a Doula might earn using the first fee that OHP would reimburse (75.00) and the newer fee. (approximately 350.00 for global Doula fee).

Labor and Birth: 10-30 hours: 10 hours at 7.50 an hour=75.00; 10 hours at 20.00=200.00; 30 hours at 7.50=225.00; 30 hours at 20.00=600.00

Home Visits, prenatally and postpartum at 1 hour each: 3-4 hours; 4 one hour visits at 20.00 an hour=80.00

Time and milage to drive to clients home: ?

Childcare for the doula's own children while Doulas are performing these services that improve outcomes and lower costs: ?

Continuing education for the doula, meetings: ?

Husband and other family members who must care for household, make meals, get kids off to school and make arrangements for after school, pick kids up from daycare, transport to activities and be responsible while Mom, the doula, is away for 12-24 plus or minus hours at the oddest times of the day: practically priceless.

Doula's husbands/partners wake up in the morning with all the responsibilities that a mother usually handles, with his/her own responsibilities, which likely include preparing for his/her own workday. How would these responsibilities have impacted your day or your colleagues day this morning if the partner/Doula had left the premises at 2am? This work requires enormous sacrifices on the part of the Doula and her family.

Please consider the cost difference of c/section and vaginal birth as you endeavor to make a Doula workforce for all women a reality. The reason Doula attended and Midwife attended births are so much less costly to the health care system is the one on one, time intensive care that is required to support normal physiologic birth. That is what the evidence has been telling us for a very long time.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts on behalf of women, children and families.

Sincerely,

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