

An Act to Increase Access to Nurse-Midwifery Services

Sponsor: Rep Kay Kahn

Purpose of the Bill:

Currently there is no requirement for insurance companies to equitably reimburse Certified Nurse Midwives for their care and services. This bill would ensure that insurance companies reimburse Certified Nurse Midwives equally to physicians for the *same* medical service

Background

- MassHealth reimburses Certified Nurse Midwives at some percentage of physician fee, rather than paying them equitably
- Inequitable reimbursement limits hospitals ability to expand their CNM services
- Medicaid plans typically base their fee schedules on Medicare physician fee schedule. Medicare bases its payments on the resources necessary to deliver the service, not the type of provider delivering care.
- Medicare reimburses CNMs at 100% of physician rate

Benefits for Massachusetts

- Numerous studies have concluded that CNM care is associate with lower rates of medical interventions, including Cesarean Section, inductions and epidural use
- ACNM estimates that if 1,000 low-risk women experienced CNM care versus typical medical model, the reduced rates of intervention would result in significant savings to Medicaid plan, including:
 - Saving between \$49,887 and \$84,33 for reduced induced birth
 - Savings of approximately \$95,903 for reduced use of epidurals
 - Savings of approximately \$297,437 from reduced cesarean birth
- Costs associated with increasing reimbursement to CNMs to 100% physician rate could be easily offset from these reduced rates of medical interventions.

Certified Nurse Midwives in MA

- Certified Nurse Midwives are Master's- and Doctorate-Prepared reproductive and sexual health providers.
- CNMs have full practice authority in Massachusetts, meaning they are fully credentialed to provide independent, autonomous care including
 - Gynecologic care
 - Family planning services
 - Preconception care
 - Pregnancy and birth
 - Care of the newborn during the first month of life
 - Primary care
- CNMs practice in over 30 hospitals in Massachusetts and attend X percentage of all normal vaginal deliveries.

Who supports Equal Reimbursement?

- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American Nurses Association
- National Perinatal Association
- National Rural Health Association
- Medicare Payment Advisory Committee

Pay Equity is a core value in Massachusetts

- In July of 2018, Massachusetts passed *An Act to Establish Pay Equity*
- Employers cannot pay workers a salary or wage less than what they pay employees of a different gender for comparable work
- Comparable work is defined as work that requires “substantially similar skill, effort, and responsibility, and is performed under similar working conditions.