



OFFICERS

ROBERT J. VARIPAPA, M.D.
PRESIDENT

BHAVIN R. DAVE, M.D.
PRESIDENT-ELECT

BRIAN J. GALINAT, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT

JAMES MONIHAN, M.D.
SECRETARY

SHALINI B. SHAH, M.D.
TREASURER

STEPHANIE GUARINO, M.D.
SPEAKER

MATTHEW J. BURDAY, D.O.
PAST PRESIDENT

MARK B. THOMPSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 20, 2024

Representative Minor-Brown, Representative Harris, and Members of the House Health & Human Development Committee,

The Medical Society of Delaware strongly supports HB 345, brought forward by Majority Leader Minor-Brown, which expands insurance coverage for doula services to include extra postpartum visits as recommended by a physician or advanced practice provider, to enhance new mothers' health outcomes in our State.

Prior legislation (HB 80) mandating coverage for prenatal and postpartum doula visits, along with labor and birth support, confirmed doulas' holistic contribution to the birthing experience. However, with many pregnancy-related deaths occurring postpartum, additional doula support would significantly impact and improve health by addressing potential issues such as cardiovascular disease, mental health concerns and substance use disorders.

Doula support is vital, especially considering the disproportionate rates of maternal mortality among black and indigenous women, where doulas have been shown to play a crucial role in improving care and providing needed support.

The Medical Society of Delaware urges every Committee member to support HB 345, to promote healthy and propitious families in our great State.

Sincerely,

Robert Varipapa, MD
President, Medical Society of Delaware

Richard Henderson, MD
Chair, MSD Government Affairs Committee