
SB 1041 (HA #4): Prevent Black Maternal Deaths by Making Midwifery Care Accessible to Low-Income Illinoisans

Black people often encounter intense medical racism in hospitals; this contributes to preventable pregnancy-related deaths and morbidity. Community-based midwifery care is a safe option some families prefer.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the importance of community-based alternatives to giving birth in a hospital, such as giving birth at home with the support of a midwife.

- In 2020, the rate of Illinois families choosing to give birth at home increased by 35% compared to 2019.*
- **The home birth rate among Black birthing people in Illinois increased by more than 200%***

Public Act 102-0683 established the licensure and regulation of Certified Professional Midwives to ensure that Illinois families have access to skilled community-based care.

Now Illinois must ensure that families who most need this care can access it.



2 out of every 3 births (67%) to a Black person in Illinois report Medicaid as the source of payment for delivery. Meanwhile, 64% of births to white people are paid by private insurance.*

SB 1041, House Amendment #4:

- Initiates a state plan amendment to add licensed Certified Professional Midwives to the Illinois Medicaid program that is eligible for federal-matching dollars.
- Encourages opportunity for innovation and quality in perinatal care.
- Increases access to in-home prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum healthcare services.

**SB 1041 ensures equitable access to reproductive health options and advances Medicaid payment structures that support high-value perinatal care.
Please vote yes!**

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*United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2016-2020, on CDC WONDER Online Database, October 2021. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html>