



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1095		DATE: 4/2/2025	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEX KORFIATIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AREEB HASAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 11:58 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEVERLY BARNES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: beverly@beverlybarnes.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2025 8:20 PM

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Every US resident should have access to affordable, quality health care, including birth control and the privacy to make reproductive choices



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CARL BETTIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: caracabe@duck.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 4:20 PM

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When my wife and I were expecting our child, the support we received from a doula and from childbirth classes were very valuable help. Everyone expecting should have access to these resources.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cndymllr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 9:55 AM

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This is a great bill for women, giving access to affordable and meaningful pregnancy care.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMILY STOINSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: emilysto@rocketmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 8:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Emily Stoinski, and I am a registered Missouri voter. I am writing today in strong support of HB 1095. The services highlighted in this bill are life saving and significantly supportive to pregnant people. This bill encourages use of these services, and I believe will lead to better birth outcomes for Missourians. I urge strong support of this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HUNTER LISOWSKI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE TIETZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jtietz@cottey.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 11:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB 1095 because doulas can provide emotional and physical support to pregnant women. Doula care is a proven, cost-effective means of improving health outcomes. All pregnant and postpartum women deserve access to full spectrum doula care.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN ALFERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: SSM HEALTH		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLI DOYLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HEALTH FORWARD FOUNDATION		TITLE: IMPACT STRATEGIST	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64108
EMAIL: kdoyle@healthforward.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 8:08 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair Stinnett and Members of the Committee: On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this testimony in support of HB 1095. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities. We support this legislation as it would improve the maternal health outcomes by addressing disparities and improving the overall experience of pregnancy and childbirth for Missouri's most vulnerable populations. HB 1095 establishes the "Missouri Doula Reimbursement Act," which ensures that doulas are recognized as vital providers in the maternal healthcare system and are reimbursed for their services under MO HealthNet coverage. Doulas offer emotional, physical, and informational support, which can make a significant difference in the overall birthing experience. Research consistently shows that doula support during labor and postpartum care can reduce the risk of costly interventions like cesarian sections, as well as lead to fewer complications and hospital stays (Medicaid Reimbursement for Doula Services: Definitions and Policy Considerations, April 2022). Providing doula care to birthing people under the Medicaid program has shown to lead to cost savings to the health care system of around \$1,000 per birth (<https://doi.org/10.1111/birt.12218>). Missouri, like many states, has seen troubling disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes, particularly among Black and low-income women. These populations experience higher rates of maternal mortality, infant mortality, and adverse birth outcomes (<https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/racial-disparities-in-maternal-and-infant-health-current-status-and-efforts-to-address-them/>). Doulas play a vital role in reducing racial injustice in maternal and infant health outcomes providing culturally sensitive support and advocating for their clients. Finally, HB 1095 requires the Department of Social Services to study the impact of childbirth education classes on maternal and infant mortality. This is a crucial step in ensuring that we are making evidence-based decisions about the services covered by MO HealthNet. By gathering data on the effects of childbirth education, we can ensure that Missouri is investing in the most effective programs to improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare disparities. We urge the committee to vote YES on 1095, a forward-thinking approach to improving maternal and infant health that has the potential to save lives and improve the quality of life for mothers and babies. This bill will additionally reduce healthcare costs associated with poor maternal and infant health outcomes in Missouri. If you have questions or need additional resources, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at kdoyle@healthforward.org. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully, Kelli Doyle Impact Strategist - PeopleHealth Forward Foundation



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA CRANDALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: marcielynnsmail@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 4:19 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Obstetricians are rare in rural areas. Rural hospitals are closing at an alarming rate. Midwives (doulas) are a practical solution for mothers. Some mothers are more relaxed and find midwives easier and more informative than Doctors.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-239-3708	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 8706 MANCHESTER RD., SUITE 104			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL: marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2025 9:06 PM

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Doulas can provide emotional and physical support to pregnant women. Doula care is a proven, cost-effective means of reducing racial disparities in maternal health. Doula care can improve health outcomes and lead to more satisfying birthing experiences. All pregnant and postpartum people deserve access to full spectrum doula care. Our national LWV position is that every US resident should have access to affordable, quality health care, including birth control and the privacy to make reproductive choices. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Missouri supports HB 1095.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELANIE BUSSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: melbusse7@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2025 10:11 AM

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Doula care is a proven, cost-effective means of supporting pregnant women, reducing racial disparities in maternal health, and improves health outcomes.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA JONES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: bartolaccipj@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 11:06 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Doulas can provide emotional and physical support to pregnant women Doula care is a proven, cost-effective means of reducing racial disparities in maternal health Doula care can improve health outcomes and lead to more satisfying birthing experiences All pregnant and postpartum people deserve access to full spectrum doula care



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL WEBB		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: raychwrites@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 9:28 PM
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Hello, As a woman, a mother and a Missourian who cares deeply about reproductive and maternal and fetal health, I urge you to support HB1095, which would require Mo HealthNet to cover doula services and childbirth education. Doulas provide emotional and physical support to pregnant women, and their services are a proven, cost-effective means of reducing racial disparities in maternal health. Doula care can improve health outcomes and lead to more satisfying birthing experiences. Providing coverage for these services would also offer benefits to women who live in our states rural areas by offering them additional options. This measure would ensure that new moms and babies born in Missouri would get greater levels of support, getting infants and families off to life on stronger footing than they have now. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBEKAH BERKOWITZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rebek_b@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 12:47 PM
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All women and their children to be, no matter their socio-economic status, deserve the best support possible during and after their pregnancies. Doulas provide both emotional and physical support to pregnant women, they are cost-effective, and improve health outcomes. This is a commonsense bill. Yes!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/31/2025 2:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Doula care is a proven, cost-effective means of reducing racial disparities in maternal health. Many women of color, especially Black women experience a lower level of reproductive care than their white counterparts in hospitals etc. The use of a doula can improve health and birthing outcomes.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/30/2025 6:37 PM
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Doulas can provide emotional and physical support to pregnant women. Doula care is a proven, cost-effective means of reducing racial disparities in maternal health and can improve health. It can also provide emotional and physical support to pregnant women not always available in other medical settings.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA M. THORNHILL, MPA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: REALE JUSTICE NETWORK		TITLE: POLICY GRIOT & SOCIAL JUSTICE DOULA	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64130
EMAIL: sacredorganizedspaces@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 5:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

April 2, 2025 Missouri House Health & Mental Health Committee Missouri State Capitol 201 W Capitol Ave Jefferson City, MO 65101 Re: Public Testimony on HB 1095 Dear Members of the Health & Mental Health Committee, On behalf of Reale Justice Network, a survivor-led reproductive justice organization dedicated to advocating for the health, dignity, and autonomy of birthing people in Missouri, I submit this testimony regarding HB 1095. This bill is an important step toward expanding access to community-based doula care for Missourians enrolled in MO HealthNet, addressing longstanding gaps in perinatal health equity. HB 1095 is an inclusive bill that will benefit all pregnant individuals by ensuring access to vital perinatal support. The bill builds upon the foundation set by Missouri's State Plan Amendment (SPA), which provided the state with an opportunity to test the effectiveness of Medicaid reimbursement for doula care. The data and experiences gathered through the SPA have demonstrated the value of these services, making it clear that codifying this access into law is a necessary and logical next step. Community doulas, particularly Black doulas and other birth workers of color, have been on the frontlines combatting systemic racism in perinatal health, working tirelessly to close gaps in care, reduce harm, and advocate for birthing people who have been historically ignored or mistreated by the medical system. While doulas have made remarkable strides, it is critical to acknowledge that we did not create these inequities, and we alone cannot be expected to solve them. The burden of fixing a broken system should not fall solely on those who have been most harmed by it. It is the responsibility of the state to repair the injustices that have led to devastating disparities in Black perinatal health outcomes. Addressing these issues requires a collective effort, one that prioritizes intentional collaboration and deference to those most impacted. Missouri must commit to working alongside the communities that have been systematically excluded from decision-making, especially those who are multimarginalized, including Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, disabled, and low-income birthing people. Repairing the harm will take more than policy shifts; it requires sustained investment, structural change, and a commitment to ensuring that community-based solutions are not only supported but centered. HB 1095 is a necessary step in the right direction, but Missouri still has a long way to go in ensuring true reproductive justice and equitable perinatal care for all. While this bill removes some barriers to care, the state must continue working to eliminate remaining obstacles that prevent pregnant individuals from accessing the full range of support they need. The work does not stop here; policymakers must remain committed to expanding access, reducing administrative burdens, and ensuring that all pregnant persons receive comprehensive and culturally responsive care. HB 1095 represents a critical investment in improving perinatal health and well-being across the state. We urge the committee to advance this bill without amendments that would create additional restrictions on doulas or limit the ability of pregnant individuals to receive the support they need. Thank

you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Sandra M. Thornhill, MPAPolicy Griot & Social Justice
DoulaCore Organizer, Reale Justice NetworkCo-Founder, Missouri Kansas BIPOC Reproductive Justice
Coalition



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH FELTS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sarah.felts@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 4:36 PM
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HB 1095 will improve maternal and infant health care outcomes across Missouri by increasing access to doula services and childbirth education classes. Missouri's maternal mortality rate is substantially higher than the national average. There are dramatic disparities in the maternal mortality rate for Black Missourians and for Missourians who rely on MO HealthNet. In Missouri, Black women are three times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related complications. The majority of these deaths are preventable. HB 1095 is a positive step toward improving maternal and infant health outcomes in Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E. CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/2/2025 12:00 AM	
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