

HJR275 INTRODUCED



1 HJR275
2 EJZ8RCC-1
3 By Representatives Lands, McClammy, Drummond, Warren, Fidler,
4 DuBose, Hall
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 22-Apr-25



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4 HJR____ RECOGNIZING DOULAS AS VITAL MEMBERS OF THE CHILDBIRTH
5 TEAM.

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7 WHEREAS, a doula is a trained, nonclinical
8 professional who provides physical, emotional, and
9 educational support and patient advocacy before, during, and
10 after childbirth, often independently or as part of
11 community-based collectives or agencies; and

12 WHEREAS, according to the Maternal Mortality Review
13 and Prevention Committee's 2018 and 2019 reports, 93 women,
14 of whom 37 were Black, died while pregnant or within one
15 year of pregnancy in Alabama, and over 60 percent of
16 pregnancy-related deaths were preventable; and

17 WHEREAS, according to that same report, Black women
18 in Alabama are two times more likely to die from
19 pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated complications
20 than white women; and

21 WHEREAS, the most recent Fetal and Infant Mortality
22 Review states that from 2009-2018, infants born to women of
23 color were twice as likely to die relative to those born to
24 white women; and

25 WHEREAS, a doula can be a powerful liaison,
26 connecting the mother to appropriate care providers and
27 remaining a constant presence of support, even when the
28 mother may have inconsistent providers; and

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29 WHEREAS, a doula can help advocate for a woman's
30 emotional and physical needs to medical staff; and

31 WHEREAS, increased access to doula care, especially
32 in under-resourced communities, can improve a range of
33 health outcomes for mothers and babies, lower health care
34 costs, reduce cesarean sections, decrease maternal anxiety
35 and depression, and help improve communication between
36 pregnant women and their health care providers; and

37 WHEREAS, the benefits of doula care can also have a
38 financial impact in helping families and the state avoid the
39 cost associated with low birth weight babies, cesarean
40 births, and other pregnancy-related complications; now
41 therefore,

42 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
43 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize that doulas are
44 vital childbirth team members and acknowledge their
45 contribution in improving maternal and infant health.