

## HB 2015 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Health Care

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**Action Date:** 04/17/17

**Action:** Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Hack, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to reimburse doula at a rate of no less than \$350 per pregnancy for services provided to medical assistance recipients.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Doula care is an evidence-based practice
- Reimbursement issues for doulas
- Benefits to mothers and babies
- Doula registry
- Proposed amendment

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

A doula (professional labor assistant) provides physical and emotional support to a woman and her partner during pregnancy, childbirth and during postpartum. A doula's most important role is to provide continuous support during labor and delivery. Although research is limited, some studies have shown that continuous support from doulas during childbirth has decreased use of pain medication during labor; decreased incidence of C-sections; decreased the length of labor; and decreased negative childbirth experiences.