

HB 2015 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Kotek, Rep. Hack

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 05/04/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Hack, Holvey, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Williamson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in coordination with Traditional Health Workers Commission, to establish reimbursement rates for doulas. Rates are to be reviewed, and revised if necessary, every even-numbered year. Identifies factors to be considered in rate review. Requires coordinated care organizations make information about access to doula services available to public. Requires OHA to study possible changes to medical assistance program to facilitate direct payments to doulas. On September 15 of each year, OHA is to provide Oregon Health Policy Board, Oregon Public Health Advisory Board and post on website, report on doula status. Specifies content of report.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of doulas
- Impact of doulas on birth outcomes and birth experience for mother
- Steps toward expanding the work force
- Importance of increasing access to and awareness of doulas

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

A doula (professional labor assistant) provides physical and emotional support to a woman and her partner during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Doulas provide assistance before, during and after child birth in a number of ways including emotional reassurance; facilitating communication between mother and the hospital staff; and assistance with breast-feeding. However, the primary role of a doula 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.