

# HB54: AN ACT RELATED TO MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFERY SERVICES

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Russell Webber and Rep Nima Kulkarni



Kentucky Birth  
COALITION

*HB54 would require Kentucky Medicaid coverage for Certified Professional Midwifery Services*

Licensed Certified Professional Midwives (LCPMs) attend 70% of Kentucky's planned home births. Yet, their services are not currently eligible for reimbursement by Kentucky Medicaid. With roughly half of all births in Kentucky being covered by Medicaid each year, this leaves many Kentuckians with extremely limited options for childbirth.

***While not everyone will choose home birth, we believe that all maternity care options should be available to all healthy women.***

## About Licensed Certified Professional Midwives (LCPMs)

- Certified Professional Midwife licensing in Kentucky was created with the passage of SB84 in 2019.
- There are 32 active LCPM licenses issued by the Kentucky Board of Nursing.
- LCPMs are primary maternity care providers trained to provide perinatal care outside of hospitals to healthy women experiencing normal pregnancies. They provide high-quality, individualized care during pregnancy and through 6 weeks after birth.

## The Impact of Medicaid Coverage = Savings

- Home birth costs less than hospital birth, with no facility fee and no fees for common hospital interventions such as epidurals.
- Without coverage, some Medicaid recipients pay out of pocket to have a home birth, some forego home birth to have a covered hospital birth, and some choose to birth at home without a healthcare provider.
- CPM services are already covered by Medicaid in 18 states and the District of Columbia.
- A Washington State Study<sup>1</sup> estimated annual savings to that state's Medicaid program of \$244,000. This was based only on costs for deliveries using the most conservative assumptions regarding c-section rates. It did not include savings based on prenatal care, newborn care, and potential long-term savings related to decreased morbidity.

<sup>1</sup> Midwifery Licensure and Discipline Program in Washington State: Economic Costs and Benefits  
[https://www.washingtonmidwives.org/uploads/1/1/3/8/113879963/midwifery\\_cost\\_study\\_10-31-07.pdf](https://www.washingtonmidwives.org/uploads/1/1/3/8/113879963/midwifery_cost_study_10-31-07.pdf)