



Legislation Summary:

An Act Promoting Access to Midwifery Care and Out-of-Hospital Birth Options

Initial bill number(s): H2209/S1457

Sponsors: Senator Rebecca Rausch, Representatives Kay Khan and Brandy Fluker Oakley

What the bill does, why LWVMA supports it, and the League position relative to this bill.

This bill establishes a licensing board for midwifery. Midwives with a CPM (Certified Professional Midwife) certificate, the gold standard of midwifery, are recognized by Massachusetts as certified and may practice in the state, no license required.

However, unless a practitioner is licensed by the state she/he cannot receive insurance payments for services rendered. At this moment in time the only women who can have at-home births, including pre and post-natal care, by midwives are women who can pay for it out of pocket.

This bill will help make available the full range of midwifery care and access by improving the ability of families across the Commonwealth to safely take advantage of their right to choose the type and location of their maternity care. About 40% of births in Massachusetts are currently covered by Medicaid/Mass Health, and this bill would make midwives available to these women who want a home birth.

LWVMA positions on health support this bill: Every US resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care, and mental health care. an affordable healthcare system that provides equal access to quality health care for all' 'consumer education on maintaining health' 'improving access to health care by removing geographic... barriers' To achieve more equitable distribution of services, the League endorses increasing the availability of resources in medically underserved areas and training providers in needed fields of care and supports methods to promote the efficient and economical delivery of care. The health care position enumerates services League members believe are of highest priority for a basic level of quality care includes prenatal and reproductive primary care Impact on Issues, p. 137 and [Where We Stand](#), p. 48