



Legislation Summary:

An Act ensuring access to full spectrum pregnancy care

Bill number(s): S.646/H.1137

Sponsors: Senator Cindy Friedman and Representative Lindsay Sabadosa

This bill would require all public and private Massachusetts health insurance plans to provide coverage for the full spectrum of pregnancy care and to include coverage of abortions and abortion-related care without any kind of deductible, co-pay or other cost sharing. Church employers with religious objections would be exempted.

This bill is important because cost is frequently a barrier to accessing prenatal, childbirth, postpartum or abortion care, especially for people who can least afford the high deductibles that are common in lower cost insurance plans.

League Position:

LWVMA supports the freedom of individuals to make informed reproductive decisions based on their own convictions and beliefs. Moreover, the League supports public funding for birth control and abortion services for the poor. The League has opposed attempts of abortion opponents to limit access and increase cost by restricting abortions to hospitals, rather than clinics. *Where We Stand*, pp. 55-56