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House Bill 5142 – Pregnancy/Postpartum Coverage - Doulas and Midwives

Vice Chairperson Manley, Republican Leader Haas, and Members of the House Health Care Availability & Accessibility Committee:

While the Catholic Conference of Illinois is in complete support of spirit of the legislation contained in HB 5142 regarding the expansion of insurance coverage for pregnancy and postpartum services rendered by perinatal doula or licensed certified professional midwives, we have to regretfully oppose this legislation due to language that provides for coverage of abortions.

As more mothers choose doula and midwives for their pregnancy and postpartum care, it is vital that they have the financial assistance they need in choosing those options.

The Catholic Conference is also supportive of insurance coverage for lactation consultant visits, breast pump supplies, breastfeeding supplies, and feeding aids for at least one year after birth. Again, any help that can be offered to mothers and their babies to support their health needs is critical.

Hence, the Conference regretfully must oppose House Bill 5142 as introduced as it provides for insurance coverage for support during abortions, which is in opposition to the dignity of human life. The rest of the legislation is a worthy initiative to help mothers in our state.