

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0053R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Porter

Cosponsored by: President Cohen and Councilmembers Parker, Dorsey, Conway, Middleton,
Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Blanchard, Jones, and Ramos

Introduced and adopted: April 27, 2026

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Doulas and Perinatal Care

1
2 FOR the purpose of recognizing doulas as essential members of the perinatal care team, calling on
3 the Health Department and City hospitals to increase access to doulas, provide coverage for
4 doulas at a sustainable wage, and invest in a strong and diverse perinatal workforce in local
5 hospitals and clinics.

Recitals

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7 Doulas are trained, non-clinical professionals providing physical, emotional, and
8 informational care from pregnancy through childbirth and into the postpartum period.

9 Studies show that access to doula care improves outcomes for mothers and children,
10 including reduced birthing complications, reduced NICU admissions, and improved mental
11 health. Access to doulas can be particularly helpful in reducing racial disparities in pregnancy
12 outcomes, with Black and Brown people facing higher maternal mortality rates.

13 Despite the value they bring to pregnancies and maternal outcomes, doulas often work
14 without benefits or steady pay. With some 42% of U.S. births covered by Medicaid, there is
15 often no coverage provided for doula care. In trying to provide care for racial and economic
16 minorities, some doulas reduce their already low wages past their own economic breaking point,
17 with downstream effects on burnout, a dwindling care workforce, and reduced maternal and
18 infant outcomes.

19 The City Council calls on the Baltimore City Health Department, as well as all
20 City-contracted hospitals, to increase doula access for pregnant families, to adopt policies that
21 lead to doula coverage at fair, sustainable wages, and to make practical and lasting investments in
22 a strong and diverse perinatal workforce in hospitals and clinics.

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
24 Council recognizes doulas as essential members of the perinatal care team, and calls on the
25 Health Department and City hospitals to increase access to doulas, provide coverage for doulas at
26 a sustainable wage, and invest in a strong and diverse perinatal workforce in local hospitals and
27 clinics.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
2 Health Commissioner, the Director of the Office of Equity and Civil Rights, the Director of the
3 Baltimore City Department of Social Services, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City
4 Council.