

# **One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB416**

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**Chairperson: Senator John Arch**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing: January 28, 2021**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The goal and purpose of LB 416 is to reduce or eliminate the factors and biases that cause disparities in health outcomes for women of color who are pregnant or postpartum. Black mothers in the United States are more likely to die during and after childbirth than Black mothers in any other developed country in the world. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics show that Black and Native American mothers die of pregnancy-related causes at a rate about three times higher than white women in the United States. Research indicates that as much as two-thirds of these deaths are preventable.

LB 416 would require annual implicit bias training for all health care professionals through their continuing education hours necessary to maintain their licenses.

LB 416 tasks the Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Program with developing a program regarding health screenings that can address conditions identified as contributing to the disparities in health outcomes for women of color. This program would then become a curriculum for training to healthcare providers.

LB 416 would require the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to apply for a Medicaid waiver to extend Medicaid coverage for eligible women from the current three months of postpartum care to 12 months of postpartum care.

Doula services have been shown to reduce the cost of birthing and improve outcomes for mothers and infants. Doulas provide education and support to the mother during pregnancy, birth and postpartum. LB 416 would require Nebraska Medicaid to pay for doula services.

LB 416 charges the Women's Health Initiative with creating and administering a grant program to fund local programs that work to improve maternal health outcomes and to reduce or eliminate health disparities for women and children of color.

LB 416 creates the Maternal Health Care Cash fund to direct funding to several maternal health services including:

Funding of \$23 million to Nebraska Medicaid to cover the 12 months of postpartum care until the federal waiver is approved.

Funding of \$150,000 annually to the Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative for the training of providers.

Funding of \$800 to Nebraska Medicaid for a one-time software change to the eligibility system.

Funding of \$2 million to the Women's Health Initiative to fund a grant program for local maternal health programs.

Funding of \$150,000 annually to fund the position of data abstractor on the Maternal Death Review Committee.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, M.**