

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**April 23, 2022**

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Healthy Babies and Healthy Mother Doula project in the fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Healthy Babies and Healthy Mothers, Inc, located at 340 Royal Poinciana Way, Suite 317-301, Palm Beach, FL.

According to March of Dimes, a racial and cultural match between a Doula and a client is a consistent predictor of better communication and can promote a greater understanding of the social, cultural, and economic factors that positively affect health equity. From 2017-to 19, the maternal death disparity rate was 3.6 in Palm Beach County In other words, Black women died from childbirth complications at a rate of over 3.5 times more than White women died.

The Journal of Perinatal Education reported that women who were socially disadvantaged and Doula-assisted for birth were four times less likely to have a low-birth-weight baby, two times less likely to experience a birth complication involving themselves or their baby, and significantly more likely to initiate breastfeeding as compared to non-Doula-assisted women of the same socio-economic group (2013). Evidence suggests that the presence of Doulas in a traditional healthcare setting allows them to serve as advocates for women of color. A recent study found that Doulas have the potential to provide a “buffer” against racism in health care for pregnant women of color by providing advocacy, patient-centered, tailored, and culturally appropriate care (National Health Law Program, May 2020). The funding is for a Doula-based project to decrease Black Maternal deaths.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (FL-20)  
Member of Congress