

Midwives' Association *of* Washington State

Washington Midwife Lobby Day Report 2020:

Over 50 members of our community met in Olympia and began to make the case that families deserve continuity of care with their midwife and should not have to leave our offices without the care and items they need related to their uncomplicated perinatal care. If you haven't yet seen the video we shared with legislators, check it out here:

https://www.washingtonmidwives.org/uploads/1/1/3/8/113879963/maws_legislative_agenda_2020.mp4

We gained a great deal of interest and support from legislators, who now have some orientation on the topic before they see our bill next session.

On top of that, two of the four bills that we expressed our support for passed outright, one passed but was vetoed, and the other passed out of the Senate but died there. See below for more details.

It was a great year to be in the state Capitol educating our representatives and their staff members about the midwifery model of care. Since the cap on our licensing fees was negotiated last year for this biennium, we were freed up to ask our representatives what questions they have about our care and services. We had the opportunity to clarify what we do at the same time beginning to advocate for families to have increased access to the additional care we are capable of offering. Check out our Talking Points here

https://www.washingtonmidwives.org/uploads/1/1/3/8/113879963/final_talking_points_for_lobby_day_2020_1.pdf

We held focus groups all day to gather input from members and other stakeholders. It was a successful and enjoyable endeavor. Thanks to those who contributed your ideas and thoughts!

We also informed our elected officials about our support for the following bills related to perinatal health and each of them moved forward! Here is an update on the status of each:

- [HB 2266](#) passed the House & Senate, was signed by the Governor and went into effect last month! This bill prohibits an employer from requiring written certification from the employee's health care provider regarding the need for a reasonable accommodation to express breast milk.
- [SB 6128](#) passed the House & Senate and was on its way to the Governor's desk to sign when the pandemic hit. As a result of the anticipated increase in Medicaid spending due to the pandemic, the governor vetoed this bill. It would have extended Medicaid coverage for pregnant and postpartum people from 60 days post-pregnancy to one year, post-pregnancy, specifically

for groups that have not qualified for the Medicaid expansion (i.e. that are only eligible for Medicaid because of pregnancy)

- [SB 6034](#) passed the House & Senate was signed by the Governor and went into effect last month! This bill extends the time allowed to file a complaint with the human rights commission for a claim related to pregnancy discrimination (formerly 6 months and now extended to 1 year)
- [SB 6523](#) would allow families the opportunity to have a birth certificate (and not just a death certificate) if they give birth to a stillborn child. This bill did not make it out of the Senate. Did you miss our 2020 Legislative Agenda Webinar? Check it out here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=StJQLeW1mJk>

Never been to a Lobby Day before and want more info? Check out our informational video https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6PsXM2jn7Ps&feature=emb_logo and plan to join us for virtual lobbying in February 2021!

Sincerely,

Legislation & Health Policy Team
Midwives' Association of WA State (MAWS)