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A resolution by Supervisors Dimitrijevic, Martin, and Wasserman, authorizing and directing the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, to partner with the appropriate department at the City of Milwaukee to enter into a joint pilot program to provide doulas to 100 women in the 53206 zip code, and authorizing an administrative transfer in the amount of \$52,000 from Org. Unit 1945 Appropriation for Contingences (unallocated) to an allocated account earmarked for the pilot doula program, by recommending adoption of the following:

**AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, doulas are trained professionals who provide emotional, physical, and informational support to mothers before, during, and after childbirth; and

WHEREAS, doulas help mothers and their partners reach a safe delivery by providing emotional support and information regarding methods of addressing pain, discomfort, and safe child rearing practices; and

WHEREAS, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists encourages the use of doulas for improved birth outcomes, including shortened labor, less need for pain medications, and fewer operative deliveries; and

WHEREAS, low-income women and women of color have the highest rates of infant and maternal mortality; and

WHEREAS, low-income women and women of color often struggle with access to quality healthcare due to cultural barriers and cost; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, in the City of Milwaukee (the City), 120 infants died before their first birthday; and

WHEREAS, from 2015 through 2017, black infants in the City were three times more likely to die before their first birthday than white infants in the City; and

WHEREAS, premature birth and unsafe sleep practices were the leading causes of black infant death, both of which can be reduced through the use of doulas; and

WHEREAS, doulas assist women with breastfeeding, which can decrease the likelihood of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and other causes of infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, other cities such as Baltimore and New York City are instituting programs, administered through Medicaid that train doulas and match them with high-risk pregnancies to encourage more informed pregnancy and delivery practices; and

47 WHEREAS, this pilot program could be extended through State of Wisconsin (the  
48 State) Governor Tony Evers' 2019-2021 biennial budget proposal, which includes  
49 \$618,700 for the State Department of Health Services to fund doula training and  
50 services, including \$426,700 to cover the reimbursement for doula services provided to  
51 women covered by Medicaid; and

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53 WHEREAS, doulas can help improve birth outcomes for low-income women and  
54 women of color in the City through improvement of individual behaviors, access to  
55 quality healthcare, and reduction of life stressors; and

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57 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County should encourage the use of doulas, especially in  
58 the highest poverty areas in the City to improve birth outcomes; and

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60 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of  
61 May 15, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-306 as amended (vote 5-0);  
62 now, therefore,

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64 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)  
65 requests the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), to partner  
66 with the City of Milwaukee (the City) to develop a doula pilot program in the 53206 zip  
67 code; and

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69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, doula services should include prenatal, labor and  
70 delivery, and postpartum visits; and

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72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DHHS is authorized to develop and enter into  
73 a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City, and at a minimum, include these  
74 broad program guidelines:

- 75 • Milwaukee County (the County) will provide up to \$52,000 to the City for  
76 doula reimbursements at an estimated cost of ~~\$520 per woman~~ **\$1,040 for**  
77 **50 women.**
- 78 • The County will market the doula pilot program to eligible women through  
79 existing programs aimed at low-income residents, including, for example,  
80 energy assistance programs and child support initiatives.
- 81 • The City will administer the program, including reimbursing the doulas,  
82 determining eligibility of both doulas and women, and addressing necessary  
83 certifications.
- 84 • **Prior to the release of funds from the County to the City, the City will**  
85 **provide to the County a report identifying how the efficiency of the**  
86 **program will be evaluated, the timeline for doing so, and the projected**  
87 **long-term need, if the program is effective.**
- 88 • The City will monitor and provide an assessment of the efficacy of the doula  
89 pilot program and, in conjunction with the DHHS, report back to both the  
90 County and the City on the same.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Administrative Services is authorized to transfer \$52,000 from Org. Unit 1945 Appropriation for Contingencies (unallocated) to an allocated account in anticipation of the County Board later approving an appropriation transfer to the DHHS, after receiving a report on the efforts to secure a MOA with the City to provide a doula pilot program.

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05/15/19  
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