

SENATE No. 672

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan B. Lovely

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act increasing access to maternal postpartum home visiting services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>Third Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>

SENATE No. 672

By Ms. Lovely, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 672) of Joan B. Lovely, Marc R. Pacheco, Patrick M. O'Connor, Anne M. Gobi and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase access to maternal postpartum home visiting services. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act increasing access to maternal postpartum home visiting services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 30 the following section:-

3 Section 31. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the
4 commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage for the universal
5 postpartum home visiting program administered by the department of public health. Such
6 coverage shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
7 shall not be subject to any deductible.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 111 is hereby amended by adding after Section 243 the following
9 section:-

10 Section 244. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the
11 following meanings:-

12 “Department”, the department of public health.

13 “Provider”, an entity or individual that provides universal postpartum home visiting
14 services.

15 “Programs”, entities or providers qualified by the department of public health to provide
16 universal postpartum home visiting services.

17 “Universal postpartum home visiting services”, evidence-based, voluntary home or
18 community-based services for birthing people and caregivers with newborns, regardless of age,
19 income, number of children, or other criteria. Services shall be delivered by a qualified health
20 professional with maternal and child health training, as defined by the department of public
21 health, during at least one visit in the family’s home or a mutually agreed upon location within
22 eight weeks postpartum. Services shall include, but not be limited to, screenings for unmet
23 health needs including reproductive health services, maternal and infant nutritional needs,
24 substance use, emotional health including postpartum depression personal safety/domestic
25 violence; clinical assessment of the birthing person and infant; brief intervention; education and
26 support; referrals to community resources, such as breastfeeding supports; and follow up phone
27 calls.

28 (b) The department shall establish and administer a statewide system of programs
29 providing universal postpartum home visiting services. The department shall be the lead agency
30 for the coordination of all government funding, both state and federal, for such programs. The
31 department may contract with agencies, individuals or groups for the provision of such services,
32 subject to appropriation.

33 (c) A provider of universal postpartum home visiting services shall determine whether
34 any recipient for whom it provides said services are or may be eligible for coverage of said
35 services through an alternative source. The department is the payer of last resort, and a provider
36 shall request payment for services it provides from third-party payers pursuant to chapters 32A,
37 118E, 175, 176A, 176B, or 176G of the General Laws, before payment is requested from the
38 department.

39 (d) The department shall monitor and assess the effectiveness of universal postpartum
40 home visiting services. Programs which are in receipt of state or federal funding for said services
41 shall report such information as requested by the department for the purpose of monitoring,
42 assessing the effectiveness of such programs, initiating quality improvement, and reducing health
43 disparities.

44 SECTION 3. Chapter 118E of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
45 section 10N the following section:-

46 Section 10O. The division and its contracted managed care organizations, accountable
47 care organizations, health plans, integrated care organizations, third-party administrators, or
48 other entities contracting with the division to administer benefits, shall provide coverage for
49 universal postpartum home visiting services, in accordance with operational standards set by the
50 department of public health pursuant to section 244 of chapter 111 of the General Laws. Such
51 coverage shall not be subject to any cost-sharing.

52 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
53 section 47PP the following section:-

54 Section 47QQ. An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to
55 section 108 that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance or a group blanket or
56 general policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 110 that provides
57 hospital expense and surgical expense insurance that is issued or renewed within the
58 commonwealth shall provide coverage for universal postpartum home visiting services, in
59 accordance with operational standards set by the department of public health pursuant to section
60 244 of chapter 111 of the General Laws. Such coverage shall not be subject to any cost-sharing,
61 including co-payments and co-insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible; provided,
62 however, that co-payments, coinsurance or deductibles shall be required if the applicable plan is
63 governed by the Federal Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result
64 of the prohibition on co-payments, coinsurance or deductibles for these services.

65 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
66 section 8KK the following section:-

67 Section 8LL. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual
68 or group hospital service plan which is delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth
69 shall provide coverage for universal postpartum home visiting services, in accordance with
70 operational standards set by the department of public health pursuant to section 244 of chapter
71 111 of the General Laws. Such coverage shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-
72 payments and co-insurance, and shall not be subject to any deductible; provided, however, that
73 co-payments, coinsurance or deductibles shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by
74 the Federal Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the
75 prohibition on co-payments, coinsurance or deductibles for these services.

76 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
77 section 4KK the following section:-

78 Section 4LL. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service
79 agreement delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage for
80 universal postpartum home visiting services, in accordance with operational standards set by the
81 department of public health pursuant to section 244 of chapter 111 of the General Laws. Such
82 coverage shall not be subject to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and
83 shall not be subject to any deductible; provided, however, that co-payments, coinsurance or
84 deductibles shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by the Federal Internal Revenue
85 Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the prohibition on co-payments,
86 coinsurance or deductibles for these services.

87 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
88 section 4KK the following section:-

89 Section 4LL. Any individual or group health maintenance contract that is issued or
90 renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage for universal postpartum home
91 visiting services, in accordance with operational standards set by the department of public health
92 pursuant to section 244 of chapter 111 of the General Laws. Such coverage shall not be subject
93 to any cost-sharing, including co-payments and co-insurance, and shall not be subject to any
94 deductible; provided, however, that co-payments, coinsurance or deductibles shall be required if
95 the applicable plan is governed by the Federal Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-
96 exempt status as a result of the prohibition on co-payments, coinsurance or deductibles for these
97 services.