

SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETIETH SESSION

S.F. No. 1737

(SENATE AUTHORS: JENSEN, Kiffmeyer, Abeler, Lourey and Pappas)		
DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/06/2017	1059	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Health and Human Services Finance and Policy
03/07/2017	1147	Author added Pappas

1.1

A bill for an act

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relating to health; appropriating money for a grant program for culturally

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appropriate birth support services and doula services.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

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Section 1. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE BIRTH

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SUPPORT SERVICES AND DOULA SERVICES.

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Subdivision 1. Grant program established. The commissioner of health shall establish

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and administer a two-year grant program to provide culturally appropriate birth support

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services and doula services for pregnant women who are Black, of African descent, or from

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indigenous backgrounds in order to lower birth disparities in communities most impacted

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by poor birth outcomes. The commissioner shall issue competitive grants to eligible

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organizations using a request for proposal process.

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Subd. 2. Eligible organizations. To be eligible for grant funds under this section, an

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organization must:

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(1) be based in the community it serves and use members of the community it serves to

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provide birth support services;

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(2) have people from communities of color serve as at least 50 percent of the

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organization's staff and service providers;

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(3) have provided doula services in the community being served for at least one year;

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(4) have at least 90 percent of clients that receive doula services be Black, of African

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descent, or from indigenous backgrounds;

2.1 (5) have at least 90 percent of clients that receive doula services have health care coverage  
2.2 through medical assistance; and

2.3 (6) ensure that providers of birth support services are also trained in mental health  
2.4 support.

2.5 Subd. 3. **Services.** Grant funds disbursed under this section must be used to fund:

2.6 (1) doula services and birth support services;

2.7 (2) home visiting services;

2.8 (3) costs related to office visits to a health care provider;

2.9 (4) one-to-one and group prenatal education services;

2.10 (5) costs related to linking clients to other community resources; and

2.11 (6) mental health support services.

2.12 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; GRANT PROGRAM FOR CULTURALLY**  
2.13 **APPROPRIATE BIRTH SUPPORT AND DOULA SERVICES.**

2.14 \$250,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated from the  
2.15 general fund to the commissioner of health for grants to eligible organizations to provide  
2.16 culturally appropriate birth support services and doula services to pregnant women who are  
2.17 Black, of African descent, or from indigenous backgrounds in order to lower birth disparities  
2.18 in these communities. The commissioner may use up to six percent of the appropriation for  
2.19 administration. This is a onetime appropriation.