

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SEC. 746. EXTRAMEDICAL MATERNAL HEALTH PROVIDERS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (TRICARE COVERAGE FOR DOULAS SUPPORT ACT)

Introduced by Senators Gillibrand (D-NY) and Blumenthal (D-CT)

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall commence carrying out a demonstration project designed to evaluate the cost, quality of care, and impact on maternal and fetal outcomes of using extramedical maternal health providers under the TRICARE program to determine the appropriateness of making coverage of such providers under the TRICARE program permanent.

(b) ELEMENTS OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The demonstration project under subsection (a) shall include, for participants in the demonstration project, the following:

(1) Access to doulas.

(2) Access to lactation consultants or lactation counselors who are not otherwise authorized to provide services under the TRICARE program.

(c) PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary shall establish a process under which covered beneficiaries may enroll in the demonstration project to receive the services provided under the demonstration project.

(d) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the demonstration project for a period of five years beginning on the date on which notification of the commencement of the demonstration project is published in the Federal Register.

(e) SURVEYS.— H. R. 6395—324

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the duration of the demonstration project, the Secretary shall administer a survey to determine—

(A) how many members of the Armed Forces or spouses of such members give birth while their spouse or birthing partner is unable to be present due to deployment, training, or other mission requirements;

(B) how many single members of the Armed Forces give birth alone; and

(C) how many members of the Armed Forces or spouses of such members use doula, lactation consultant, or lactation counselor support.

(2) MATTERS COVERED BY SURVEYS.—The surveys administered under paragraph (1) shall include an identification of the following:

(A) The race, ethnicity, age, sex, relationship status, Armed Force, military occupation, and rank, as applicable, of each individual surveyed.

(B) If individuals surveyed were members of the Armed Forces or the spouses of such members, or both.

(C) The length of advanced notice received by individuals surveyed that the member of the Armed Forces would be unable to be present during the birth, if applicable.

(D) Any resources or support that the individuals surveyed found useful during the pregnancy and birth process, including doula, lactation consultant, or lactation counselor support.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a plan to implement the demonstration project.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date on which the demonstration project commences, and annually thereafter for the duration of the demonstration project, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the cost of the demonstration project and the effectiveness of the demonstration project in improving quality of care and the maternal and fetal outcomes of covered beneficiaries enrolled in the demonstration project.

(B) MATTERS COVERED.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall address, at a minimum, the following:

(i) The number of covered beneficiaries who are enrolled in the demonstration project.

(ii) The number of enrolled covered beneficiaries who have participated in the demonstration project.

(iii) The results of the surveys under subsection (e). (iv) The cost of the demonstration project.

(v) An assessment of the quality of care provided to participants in the demonstration project. H. R. 6395—325

(vi) An assessment of the impact of the demonstration project on maternal and fetal outcomes.

(vii) An assessment of the effectiveness of the demonstration project.

(viii) Recommendations for adjustments to the demonstration project.

(ix) The estimated costs avoided as a result of improved maternal and fetal health outcomes due to the demonstration project.

(x) Recommendations for extending the demonstration project or implementing permanent coverage under the TRICARE program of extramedical maternal health providers.

(xi) An identification of legislative or administrative action necessary to make the demonstration project permanent.

(C) FINAL REPORT.—The final report under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted not later than 90 days after the date on which the demonstration project terminates.

(g) EXPANSION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

(1) REGULATIONS.—If the Secretary determines that the demonstration project is successful, the Secretary may prescribe regulations to include extramedical maternal health providers as health care providers authorized to provide care under the TRICARE program.

(2) CREDENTIALING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may establish credentialing and other requirements for doulas, lactation consultants, and lactation counselors through public notice and comment rulemaking for purposes of including doulas, lactation consultants, and lactation counselors as health care providers authorized to provide care under the TRICARE program pursuant to regulations prescribed under paragraph (1).

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) The terms “covered beneficiary” and “TRICARE program” have the meanings given those terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code. (2) The term “extramedical maternal health provider” means a doula, lactation consultant, or lactation counselor.