



BUDGET AMENDMENT



BUDGET AMENDMENT BACKGROUND

Continuum of Care

PROBLEM:

Seventy-five percent of women seeking an abortion would prefer to parent if their circumstances were different. Abortions are predominantly driven by socioeconomic concerns that preexist a pregnancy. Women equipped with support or resources often decide to keep their children. Communities already provide significant private and public resources to support their needs. Unfortunately, women continue to report unawareness that resources exist to help them and that obtaining support services can be difficult. Women's services are crucial to preventing abortion and saving lives.

PURPOSE:

The Continuum of Care program ("Program") remedies these issues by creating a telecare system of tangible support for pregnant women in need. The Program offers and provides women with immediate personalized support, long-term solutions, and healthy pregnancy benefits through trained licensed professionals. The Program enables a woman seeking abortion to learn about and access Program services when she needs them most. The Program supports mothers and stabilizes families with the goal to empower them from support to independence.

RESULTS:

Care for pregnant women in need reduces the demand for abortion by 30%. This estimate is based on results from similar services provided across the country. The Program also enables a host of benefits for family health and welfare including healthy maternal and infant birth outcomes, childbirth, family formation, and economic self-sufficiency. The Program provides access to prenatal and postpartum care as well as necessities such as employment, childcare, safe or affordable housing, and insurance or Medicaid. All Program care plans are individualized and include paths to independence. Finally, by offering outreach and telecare, women can access assistance more quickly, increasing the likelihood of choosing life before their abortion appointments.

FUNCTION:

The department assigned creates a Continuum of Care program to assist parents of children under two, including unborn, with health and socioeconomic needs. The Program funds outreach efforts to pregnant women and parents in need. It also enables professionals to offer and assist in connecting participants with public and private services in their community. By operating statewide through telecare, women in need receive immediate care no matter where they are. The Program gives a pregnant woman real options and better solutions for whatever she is facing.

CURRENT LAW:

The Women's Right to Know Act (the "Act") requires abortionists to give the pregnant woman a lengthy booklet that includes information about fetal development and a variety of programs with their contact information. Further, abortion clinics providing the booklet possess a financial interest in the abortion occurring. They are not equipped to



address women's socioeconomic needs and publicly object to doing so. Finally, women continue to report unawareness that resources exist to help them and that obtaining support services can also be cumbersome. The Program builds on the foundation of the Act by providing women third-party, interpersonal, and comprehensive care.

KEY ASPECTS OF THE CONTINUUM OF CARE BUDGET AMENDMENT:

- The Continuum of Care budget amendment allocates funding for a Program to 1) reach pregnant women in need and 2) connect them with healthy pregnancy and care plan coordination services.
 - Healthy pregnancy services include access to medical care, mental or behavioral health care, pregnancy support, and information on adoption.
 - Care plan coordination services are individualized care plans for Program participants addressing socioeconomic needs such as safe housing, parenting classes, resources, employment, education, child care, adoption services, financial needs, addiction or substance abuse treatment, and assistance for abuse or human trafficking.
- Program services are available to women seeking abortion, biological parents of unborn children, biological or adoptive parents of a child under two years, and women who terminate their pregnancies.
- The Program allows participants to connect with assistance immediately through a telecare network.
- The budget amendment contains reporting requirements about the types of services women need to support future policy development.

Learn More: HuCoAction.org



BUDGET AMENDMENT

Continuum of Care

[Appropriations Bill Number]

General Appropriations Act

[Session Number] Legislature

ARTICLE [NUMBER] - [STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT]

SECTION 1. FUNDS FOR CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR CERTAIN PREGNANT WOMEN AND PARENTS.(A) Of the funds appropriated in this act to the [state health department], the sum of [recommended \$350 per abortion in state] in each fiscal year for the Continuum of Care program.

(B) Unexpected Balance Authority within the Biennium. Any unobligated and unexpended balances remaining as of [date], are appropriated to [state health department] for the same purpose for the state fiscal year beginning [date].

SECTION 2. CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM. (A) The [state health department] shall establish a continuum of care program for certain pregnant women and parents, referred to hereafter in this Chapter as the "program".

(B)(1) The purpose of the program is to facilitate the operation of a statewide telecare support network that provides community outreach, consultations, and care coordination for women who are challenged with unexpected pregnancies.

(2) The program shall:

- (a) encourage healthy childbirth;
- (b) support childbirth as an alternative to abortion;
- (c) promote family formation;
- (d) assist parents in establishing successful parenting techniques; and
- (e) increase the economic self-sufficiency of families.

(C) The program shall utilize a statewide telecare support network to facilitate Section 3. The [state health department] shall provide in rule for the functions and administration of the telecare support network.

(D) The Department shall finance the program with funds appropriated to it by the Legislature for operation of the program.

SECTION 3. SERVICES AND RESOURCES; ELIGIBILITY.(A) The program shall provide direct services, supports, social services case management, and referrals to biological parents of unborn children and biological or adoptive parents of children under the age of two years.

(B) The program shall include:

- (1) outreach to at-risk populations eligible for the program;

(2) licensed nurses, community health workers, or other individuals of equivalent expertise to:

(a) assess and evaluate program participant needs related to pregnancy or parenting;

(b) assist program participants in obtaining medical and mental health care; and

(c) provide medically accurate, pregnancy-related medical information to program participants.

(3) licensed social workers, nurses, community health workers, licensed professional counselors, or other individuals of equivalent experience to:

(a) develop a care plan, resources, and supports for program participants to address identified needs;

(b) refer program participants to local resources including, without limitation, state and federal benefits programs and local charitable organizations;

(c) assist program participants in applying for state and federal benefits programs; and

(d) assist program participants in accomplishing elements of the care plan.

(C) Any person and any of its subcontractors or agents providing services under this chapter shall:

(1) maintain the confidentiality of information obtained while performing program services, including complying with [state medical records privacy law];

(2) not provide or prescribe abortion services or abortion aid;

(3) not directly or indirectly promote, refer for, facilitate, or assist women in obtaining abortion services or abortion aid;

(4) not own, operate, or affiliate with an abortion provider;

(5) not own, operate, or affiliate with a person who directly or indirectly promotes, refers for, facilitates, or assists women in obtaining an abortion;

(6) not employ an individual who has performed or induced an abortion in the last two years;

(7) not have a director, board member, officer, volunteer, or employee who performed or induced an abortion in the last two years or who serves in any of these roles for an entity described in subdivisions (1) and (2).

(E) Any program participant who terminates a pregnancy shall be eligible to continue receiving services through the program for a period of six months from the date of the pregnancy termination.

SECTION 4. REPORTING. (A) On or before [reporting date], and annually thereafter, the Department shall submit to the [preferred state oversight entity or committee] on the status and operation of the program. Each report required by this section shall include:

(1) the number of individuals served by the program, and for the individuals served; and

(2) the types of referrals and services provided to program participants.

(B) Information provided to the Department shall not include any personally identifying information regarding program participants.

SECTION 5. RULEMAKING. (A) The Department shall promulgate in accordance with the [state Administrative Procedure Act] all such rules as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Chapter.