Parents deserve access to quality services that keep them and their children healthy. Too many families in Illinois, particularly families of color, do not receive the types of early care and education interventions proven to support successful births and proper child development. **Black birthing parents are six times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than their white peers, and nearly three-quarters of pregnancy-related deaths were deemed preventable.**

The risk is not only that of the parent. **The infant mortality rate in Illinois is 6.6 deaths per 1,000 live birth, higher than the national average.** The racial disparities also persist in child outcomes - the Illinois infant mortality rate for black infants is more than double the rate for white infants.

Medicaid covers almost half of all births in Illinois, but families enrolled in the state Medicaid program are at a higher risk of both severe maternal and infant mortality compared to those with private insurance.

Across the U.S., 24 states already finance home visiting and two states finance doula services through Medicaid. General Revenue Funds are utilized for some doula and evidence-based home visiting programs, but these services are currently only available to a portion of eligible families. Medicaid is key to maximizing our state’s ability to serve more families and address this ongoing crisis.

HB4, HA2 expands the Illinois Medicaid program to include coverage for doula services and evidence-based home visiting services for individuals who qualify for medical assistance, effective July 1, 2021.

For more information, contact:

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SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Advance Illinois
Children’s Home and Aid
Fox Valley United Way - SPARK Early Childhood Collaboration
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois AEYC
Metropolitan Family Services
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Planned Parenthood of Illinois
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago