

January 16, 2023

Rep. Ruth Richardson
403 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Rep. Richardson:

The Minnesota Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is writing in support of House File 52 which would require health care providers and health care facilities to allow patients to have, at minimum, one designated support person of their choosing to be physically present while the person is receiving health care services including during a hospital stay.

ACOG believes that having a dedicated labor support person, someone not on your health care team, is vitally important for patients during labor and delivery. Research shows that women who have continuous labor support are less likely to use pain medications or have C-sections. They also tend to have shorter, more satisfying birth experiences.

Another support option that is becoming more common are doulas and we support that this legislation allows for doulas to not count towards the support person role. Doulas are trained companions that provide emotional, physical, and educational support to women during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and after birth.

Giving birth is an important day in a patient's life. Their labor partner can do a lot to help facilitate the birth experience the patient envisions.

We thank you for taking steps to protect the health of Minnesotans. If you have questions for ACOG, please reach out to our contract lobbyist, Tara Erickson, at Tara@tgeconsultingmn.com or 612-280-8998.

Sincerely,

Siri Fiebiger, MD
ACOG