

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 23, 2019 Contact: Brian Rothgery, 414-278-4230

County Board Unanimously Funds Doula Services to Support Women's Reproductive Health

MILWAUKEE – The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously today to allocate \$52,000 for doulas, or birth companions, to improve birth and maternal health in the 53206 Zip Code.

The action marks a significant step towards improving maternal health and addressing racial disparities with public funding for women's reproductive health care.

The proposal, from Supervisor Dimitrijevic, funds doula services for eligible women through the City of Milwaukee's health department, which will administer the program.

"Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee should be proud that we are ahead of the curve when it comes to supporting women's health, and reproductive health in particular. Everyone deserves access to quality, affordable health care, and this program funds birth support for mothers who need it most," said Dimitrijevic.

The Milwaukee Common Council recently <u>directed</u> the City Health Department to develop the joint pilot program with Milwaukee County.

Funds from Milwaukee County will go to pay doulas directly for their services. The City of Milwaukee will fund the administration of the program, and evaluate its effectiveness.

###