

Wilmington, Delaware
June 2, 2022

#0179

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 346 (HB No. 346), “An Act to Amend Title 31 of the Delaware Code Relating to Patient Monitoring Devices,” removes the requirement that a pregnant patient enrolled in the state Medicaid program receive prior authorization for an automated take-home blood pressure cuff when the automated take-home blood pressure cuff is recommended by their doctor; and

WHEREAS, pregnant members enrolled with a Managed Care Organization (MCO) can already receive an automated take-home blood pressure cuff without prior authorization, patients enrolled in the Medicaid fee for service program must go through the additional step of obtaining preauthorization; and

WHEREAS, blood pressure monitoring devices are essential to prenatal care because high blood pressure is the first indicator of preeclampsia, a health risk during pregnancy. If left untreated, preeclampsia can lead to complications like stroke, seizures, organ damage or failure, temporary blindness and death. It is also a common cause of premature labor and low birth weight in infants, which puts those children at greater risk of learning disabilities, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and other serious health challenges throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, in Delaware, severe maternal morbidity rose by 37 percent in recent years. New Castle County had the highest rate of low-birth-weight infants of all Delaware counties. More than one in ten low birth weight babies were born to families in the City of Wilmington from 2014 to 2018. Eliminating the preauthorization requirement would be a significant step toward improving maternal healthcare throughout the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Council is in favor of HB No. 346, which ensures access to take-home blood pressure monitoring devices for all Medicaid patients.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council encourages members of the Delaware General Assembly to support the passage of HB No. 346.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution encourages members of the Delaware General Assembly to support the passage of House Bill No. 346, “An Act to Amend Title 31 of the Delaware Code Relating to Patient Monitoring Devices,” which removes the requirement that a pregnant patient enrolled in the state Medicaid program receive prior authorization for an automated take-home blood pressure cuff when the automated take-home blood pressure cuff is recommended by their doctor.