



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE**  
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**Insurance Coverage for Pregnancy Termination**  
**Statement Before the Office of Management and Budget**  
**in the hearing on the FY 2025 Budget Request**  
**of the Department of Health and Social Services**  
**November 17, 2023**

The League of Women Voters calls upon the Governor to include funding and authorization in the Recommended FY 2025 State Budget for Medicaid coverage of pregnancy termination (a proposal introduced in the 152<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in HS 1 for HB 110).

As we know you know, Medicaid covers the cost of pregnancy – including the full range of services from pre-natal care through delivery to post-partum care - as it should.

But when a woman who is a participant in the Medicaid Program becomes pregnant, she does not have what all women should have – namely, the right to choose what happens in her body. If adding a child to her family at a given time is not in her best interests or the best interest of her family, she really does not have the option of a pregnancy termination. As a Medicaid participant, she almost certainly cannot afford it. Thus, her only choice is to carry the pregnancy to term – and that is no choice at all. She is not offered the opportunity to make determinations about her body that women can make who have the financial means to do so.

We understand that the cost for this service would have to be covered with 100% state funds, but we urge that recognition be given to the equity that such an expenditure provides -- namely, affording women in the Medicaid Program the same ability to make choices about their bodies that is available to women with greater financial resources.

Thank you in advance for considering these points and including the needed funding in the FY 2025 Recommended Budget.