

HOUSE No. 3881

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kay Khan

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to increase access to nurse-midwifery services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 3881

By Ms. Khan of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3881) of Kay Khan and others relative to insurance coverage and access to nurse-midwifery services. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to increase access to nurse-midwifery services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:-

3 Section 31. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the
4 commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission coverage for services rendered by
5 a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of nurse-midwifery by the board of
6 registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112; provided, however, that the
7 following conditions are met: (1) the service rendered is within the scope of the certified nurse
8 midwife’s authorization to practice by the board of registration in nursing; (2) the policy or
9 contract currently provides benefits for identical services rendered by a health care provider
10 licensed by the commonwealth; and (3) the reimbursement for the services provided shall be in
11 the same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing
12 the service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed
13 physician to achieve compliance with this section.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
15 following section:-

16 Section 80. The division shall provide coverage for services rendered by a certified nurse
17 midwife designated to engage in the practice of nurse-midwifery by the board of registration in
18 nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112; provided, however, that the following conditions
19 are met: (1) the service rendered is within the scope of the certified nurse midwife's
20 authorization to practice by the board of registration in nursing; (2) the policy or contract
21 currently provides benefits for identical services rendered by a health care provider licensed by
22 the commonwealth; and (3) the reimbursement for the services provided shall be in the same
23 amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the
24 service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed
25 physician to achieve compliance with this section.

26 SECTION 3. Section 47E of Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
27 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentences:- The reimbursement for
28 the services provided pursuant to this section shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement
29 paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the service in the area served. An
30 insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with
31 this section.

32 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
33 section 80O the following section:-

34 Section 8PP. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual
35 or group hospital service plan which is delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall

36 provide as a benefit to all individual subscribers and members within the commonwealth and to
37 all group members having a principal place of employment within the commonwealth for
38 services rendered by a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of nurse-
39 midwifery by the board of registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112;
40 provided, however, that the following conditions are met: (1) the service rendered is within the
41 scope of the certified nurse midwife's authorization to practice by the board of registration in
42 nursing; (2) the policy or contract currently provides benefits for identical services rendered by a
43 health care provider licensed by the commonwealth; and (3) the reimbursement for the services
44 provided shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed
45 physician performing the service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the
46 reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with this section.

47 SECTION 5. Section 4G of Chapter 176B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
48 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentences:- The reimbursement for
49 the services provided pursuant to this section shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement
50 paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the service in the area served. An
51 insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with
52 this section.

53 SECTION 6. Section 4 of Chapter 176G is of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
54 hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

55 (g) services rendered by a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of
56 nurse-midwifery by the board of registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112,
57 subject to the terms of a negotiated agreement between the health maintenance organization and

58 the provider of health care services. The reimbursement for the services provided shall be in the
59 same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the
60 service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed
61 physician in order to comply with this section.