

## **Introduction**

Good afternoon. My name is Davina Maddox, and I am the Freestanding Birth Center program manager within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). I am here to present testimony on proposed amendments to regulation 101 CMR 355.00: *Rates for Freestanding Birth Center Services*, effective for dates of service on or after February 1, 2026.

## **Background**

Regulation 101 CMR 355.00 establishes the rates used by governmental purchasers to make payments for freestanding birth center (FBC) services provided to publicly aided individuals. FBCs are licensed birth centers that are freestanding and not operating under a hospital license. Regulation 101 CMR 355.00 includes three services: 1) routine obstetrical services for the pregnant individual, including labor, delivery, and post-partum care; 2) initial care of the normal newborn infant, including evaluation and management; and 3) interim labor and pre-partum services when delivery occurs at another facility. Regulation 101 CMR 355.00 includes two all-inclusive global facility payment rates—one for the pregnant individual and one for the infant—and a third global facility fee for interim labor and pre-partum services where delivery occurs at another facility, which is set by individual consideration. As specified in 101 CMR 355.00, the professional services of physicians, certified nurse midwives, and certified nurse practitioners performed in FBCs are paid using the rates established in other EOHHS regulations.

## **Proposed Amendments**

EOHHS proposes to update the effective date of the existing regulation to February 1, 2026, and make no changes to the current FBC rates. EOHHS concludes that the proposed amendments are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and satisfy the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Sections 13C and 13D.

In addition, the proposed amendments update citations and terminology and otherwise increase clarity.

## **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the proposed amendments.

Testimony on Amendments to 101 CMR 355.00  
Rates For Freestanding Birth Center Services  
Effective February 1, 2026  
September 10, 2025

This concludes my testimony.

Thank you.