

Senator Lea Webb is recognized as NYSPA's 2024 Maternal Child Health Advocate of the Year



Over the past two years, Senator Lea Webb has been a tireless advocate for women's health and ensuring women's right to reproductive health services which has placed NY as a lead state for assuring women have access to comprehensive and affordable reproductive health care services. In addition to representing the 52nd NYS Senate District covering Broome and Cortland counties, she is Chairperson of the Senate Women's Issues Committee.

With respect to the work of the Issues Committee, Senator Webb stated: *"I am extremely proud of the work we are doing to increase access to quality maternal and reproductive health care in New York. We know that these issues disproportionately impact people of color and rural*

communities, which often experience poor health outcomes. This package of legislation will make sure that everyone gets equitable access to comprehensive healthcare including but not limited to timely prenatal care, safe birthing experiences, comprehensive postpartum care, and reproductive health services. This is another win in New York's fight for reproductive rights and access, and an important step towards more equitable maternal health care throughout our state."

Together with the Senate Democratic Majority, Senator Webb helped advance landmark legislation to strengthen reproductive rights and improve maternal health outcomes for all New Yorkers. On the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade decision, the New York Senate Democratic Conference built on its long standing work to protect abortion rights and expand access to reproductive care in New York. This package features legislation to strengthen New Yorkers' privacy rights by requiring companies that collect and sell healthcare information to receive affirmative consent by users to sell such information to third parties; establishes a Reproductive Freedom and Equity Grant Program to ensure access to abortion care across the state and enacts the Hospital Transparency Act. This package includes a Workgroup on Maternal Health Care and Birthing Standards, stronger protections for pregnant individuals during special enrollment periods for healthcare insurance; authorizes the New York State Department of Health to create a pregnancy mobile App and directs the agency to include maternal death data disaggregated by race in pregnancy informational materials. In addition, this slate of bills includes legislation to allow doulas to enter operating rooms in hospitals and guarantee birthing individuals access to their doulas in healthcare facilities; requires healthcare providers to offer a maternal depression screening to new mothers; establishes an uterine fibroid education awareness campaign through the Department of Health and bans carcinogenic substances from menstrual products.

Senator Webb was the sponsor of numerous bills including the Maternal Health Care and Birthing Standards Workgroup, Maternal Care Mobile App for Medicaid Recipients, Maternal Mortality Data Information Materials, and more.

NYSPA applauds Senator Webb for all she has done and we know – will continue to do.