

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment



**From:** Emma Cofer <emmacecily@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 8:35 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Please find the funding to continue WEB.

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Dear SB County Board of Supervisors,

I am so deeply disappointed by the news that the Welcome Every Baby (WEB) program will be ending due to lack of funding. This is a heartbreaking sign of how families, birthing people and babies are deprioritized in our systems and society.

I personally experienced the value of this program when Lisa visited our family a few days after bringing our son, Bryce, home from the Cottage Hospital NICU last fall. I didn't know what to expect, but I had been advised by moms in town that these WEB visits were really helpful. Lisa checked in on how the transition home from the hospital was going, provided resources to help us as new parents with a preemie baby, and took the time to answer the millions of questions we had about baby care. But most importantly, Lisa was the first person who made sure that \*I\* was going to be okay. I mentioned that my blood pressure was not under control due to postpartum preeclampsia, and I shared with her that it felt like no one knew what to do with me anymore—I wasn't an "OB patient," but I was suffering due to an obstetric complication. Doctors in town kept referring me to each other, and back again. I was so frustrated, and frankly, I was just planning to give up and hope nothing bad happened... after all, I had a baby to take care of and no time. Lisa was kind, concerned, and determined to help. She gave me the pep talk I needed about advocating for myself so that I could get healthy, and she suggested that we look into concierge care or a specialty clinic. Immediately after her visit, we contacted a specialist team at UCLA that was uniquely qualified to handle my complex situation, and my care began. If Lisa hadn't come that day, I would have kept bouncing around Santa Barbara, trying to find someone who knew what to do. I now understand that this would not have resolved on its own—and without intervention, my long-term heart health was in serious jeopardy.

Without WEB, who will close the dangerous gaps in care for birthing people and babies? Is the cursory six-week appointment all we can count on to make sure we and our babies are okay? We need this exact program... not some lesser shadow of it. We need skilled RNs and LCs coming into our homes when we and our babies are at our most vulnerable (and least mobile). It is embarrassing that a city as wealthy as Santa Barbara chooses to deprioritize an essential service like this within its resourcing. For Santa Barbara to continue to be a vibrant, family-friendly community, we need to actually care about families. Please protect WEB.

I am happy to be reached for further commentary.

Best,  
Emma Cofer

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