



primary care
collaborative

July 6, 2022

601 13th St. NW, Suite 430N
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pcpcc.org

The Honorable Robin Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ayanna Pressley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kelly, Beutler, Pressley and Gonzalez,

I write to commend your leadership in response to the maternal health crisis and express Primary Care Collaborative's strong support for H.R. 3345, the Helping MOMS Act of 2021.

The Primary Care Collaborative (PCC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan multi-stakeholder coalition of 60+ organizational [Executive Members](#) ranging from clinicians and patient advocates to employer groups and health plans. PCC's members share a commitment to an equitable, high value health care system with primary care at its base. Specifically, primary care that emphasizes comprehensiveness, longitudinal relationships, and "upstream" drivers to facilitate better patient experiences and better health outcomes (See the [Shared Principles of Primary Care](#)).

Approximately 700 women die annually in the United States because of pregnancy or its complications, and over half of those occur up to a year postpartum.¹ This risk is greater for those with common chronic conditions including mental health conditions, hypertension, diabetes, and substance use.^{2,3} Egregious inequities in maternal health outcomes exist for women of color as well. For example, between 2007-2016, the maternal mortality rate for Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women aged 30+ was approximately four to five times greater than their White counterparts.⁴ Yet according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **approximately 60 percent of pregnancy related deaths overall were considered preventable.**⁵

¹ Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. Vital Signs: Pregnancy-Related Deaths, United States, 2011–2015, and Strategies for Prevention, 13 States, 2013–2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:423–429. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6818e1external icon>.

² Nelson, D.B., Moniz, M.H. & Davis, M.M. Population-level factors associated with maternal mortality in the United States, 1997–2012. *BMC Public Health* **18**, 1007 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5935-2>

³ Davis NL, Smoots AN, Goodman DA. *Pregnancy-Related Deaths: Data from 14 U.S. Maternal Mortality Review Committees, 2008-2017*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2019.

⁴ Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:762–765. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6835a3external icon>.

⁵ Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. Vital Signs: Pregnancy-Related Deaths, United States, 2011–2015, and Strategies for Prevention, 13 States, 2013–2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:423–429. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6818e1external icon>.

PCC supports this legislation as an important step to confronting the maternal mortality crisis. It would:

- Extend Medicaid postpartum coverage for 12 months on a permanent basis; and
- Temporarily increase the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (i.e., federal matching rate) for pregnancy-related services in states that choose to do so.

This legislation will support the high-quality primary care and maternal health services that postpartum individuals need. Clinical guidelines and recommendations support a comprehensive postpartum visit – helping screen for risk of mood and emotional well-being challenges,⁶ type-2 diabetes,⁷ hypertension,⁸ and ensure appropriate treatment and referral.⁹ Current guidance recommends that a comprehensive postpartum visit generally occurs no later than 12 weeks (84 days) after birth.¹⁰ Yet for Medicaid, the primary payer of maternity care in the U.S., covering 43 percent of births nationwide, there are serious coverage barriers.¹¹

Under longstanding federal law, Medicaid coverage has historically been based on pregnancy status ending just 60 days postpartum. This arbitrary cutoff point leaves many individuals uninsured, specifically during a vulnerable time in their physical and mental health. Interruptions in health insurance coverage result in care fragmentation and make it difficult for patients to continue seeing a trusted care team that understands their unique medical history. In 2020, [the Bridging the Chasm Initiative](#), an effort by leading stakeholders in which PCC participated, recommended the expansion of coverage across the full post-partum year.¹²

PCC supports ongoing efforts by CMS and states to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from only 60 days to 12 months postpartum – using the temporary, five-year authority available under the American Rescue Plan. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation Medicaid Postpartum Coverage Extension Tracker, 16 states have already implemented

⁶ <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/perinatal-depression-preventive-interventions#fullrecommendationstart>

⁷ American Diabetes Association Professional Practice Committee; 15. Management of Diabetes in Pregnancy: *Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2022*. *Diabetes Care* 1 January 2022; 45 (Supplement 1): S232–S243. <https://doi.org/10.2337/dc22-S015>

⁸ Garovic VD, Dechend R, Easterling T, et al. Hypertension in Pregnancy: Diagnosis, Blood Pressure Goals, and Pharmacotherapy: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association [published correction appears in *Hypertension*. 2022 Mar;79(3):e70]. *Hypertension*. 2022;79(2):e21-e41. doi:10.1161/HYP.000000000000208

⁹ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists C on OP. ACOG COMMITTEE OPINION Number 757: Screening for Perinatal Depression . 2018;132(5). Accessed April 8, 2022. <https://www.acog.org/-/media/project/acog/acogorg/clinical/files/committee-opinion/articles/2018/11/screening-for-perinatal-depression.pdf>

¹⁰ Research Protocol: Postpartum Care for Women Up to One Year After Pregnancy. Content last reviewed April 2022. Effective Health Care Program, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/postpartum-care-one-year/protocol>

¹¹ Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission. Medicaid’s Role in Financing Maternity Care. January 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Medicaid%E2%80%99s-Role-in-Financing-Maternity-Care.pdf>

¹² McCloskey L, Bernstein J, The Bridging The Chasm Collaborative, et al. Bridging the Chasm between Pregnancy and Health over the Life Course: A National Agenda for Research and Action. *Womens Health Issues*. 2021;31(3):204-218. doi:10.1016/j.whi.2021.01.002

12-months of continuous coverage postpartum, and another 14 states are planning to implement as of June 2022.¹³

With H.R. 3455, the 117th Congress has an important opportunity to build on prior efforts to strengthen maternal health. PCC stands ready to work with you to ensure this legislation is enacted this year. Please contact PCC's Director of Policy, Larry McNeely (lmcneely@thepcc.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Ann Greiner
President & CEO
Primary Care Collaborative

¹³ Medicaid Postpartum Coverage Extension Tracker. Kaiser Family Foundation. June 2022.
<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-postpartum-coverage-extension-tracker/>

PCC Executive Members

Below is a list of the Primary Care Collaborative's executive members that pay dues to the organization and support its mission. Membership does not indicate explicit endorsement of this letter.

AARP

Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.

AllWays Health Partners

Alzheimer's Association

America's Agenda

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)

American Association of Nurse Practitioners

American Board of Family Medicine Foundation (ABFM Foundation)

American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation (ABIM Foundation)

American Cancer Society

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Lifestyle Medicine

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

American College of Osteopathic Internists

American College of Physicians

American Psychiatric Association Foundation

American Psychological Association

Anthem, Inc.

Array Behavioral Care

Ascension Medical Group

Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI)

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Brigham and Women's Hospital Primary Care Center of Excellence

CareFirst, BlueCross BlueShield

Catalyst Health Network

Community Care of North Carolina

CVS Health

Doctor on Demand

GTMRx

Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care

HealthTeamWorks

IBM

Innovaccer

Institute for Patient- and Family-Centered Care

Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, Inc.

Johnson & Johnson

Mathematica Policy Research

MedNetOne Health Solutions

Mental Health America
Merck
Morehouse School of Medicine - National Center for Primary Care
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
National Association of ACOs
National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC)
National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health
National PACE Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Rural Health Association
NCQA
Oak Street Health
One Medical
PCC Pediatric EHR Solutions
Pediatric Innovation Center
Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)
Purchaser Business Group on Health (formerly Pacific Business Group on Health)
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition
Takeda Pharmaceuticals
UPMC Health Plan
URAC
