

Federal Legislation to Improve Maternal Health: Summary and Status

Last Updated June 3, 2019

In the 115th Congress, bipartisan legislation was enacted that supports maternal mortality review committees and to increase the supply of maternal health providers in targeted areas. Members of the 116th Congress have the opportunity to build on that progress. The table below summarizes introduced legislation with the potential to improve maternal health outcomes and address the dire and persistent disparities in maternal mortality between Black and white women.

Introduced in the 116th Congress

Bill Name (number)	Lead Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
The Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA's) Act (H.R. 1897, S. 916)	Representative Kelly (D-IL02) Senator Durbin (D-IL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage to one year postpartum for women who have pregnancy-related Medicaid or CHIP coverage; • Authorizes funding to establish or support Regional Centers of Excellence for implicit bias and cultural competency education; • Standardizes maternal mortality and morbidity data collection across states; • Empowers the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide technical guidance and publish best practices for maternal mortality and morbidity prevention; • Authorizes funding for the <i>Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health</i> grant program — a national data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative to implement obstetric emergency protocols and best practices to save mothers' lives. 	Introduced in the House and Senate
Modernizing Obstetric Medicine Standards (MOMS) Act (S. 116)	Senator Gillibrand (D-NY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes funding for the <i>Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health</i> (AIM) grant program — a national data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative to implement obstetric emergency protocols and best practices to save mothers' lives; 	Introduced in the Senate

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes funding for a grant program to help states and hospitals implement the standardized maternal safety best practices developed by AIM; • Encourages the CDC to work with states to compile data from state maternal mortality review committees to improve national surveillance. 	
Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act (QCMBA) (H.R. 1551)	Representative Engel (D-NY16) Representative Stivers (R-OH15) *Senator Stabenow (D-MI) has sponsored QCMBA in previous sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work with relevant providers, specialty organizations, consumer organizations and other stakeholders to identify and publish a core set of maternity care quality measures for childbearing women and newborns; • Directs Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) to develop and use a Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Maternity survey; • Authorizes the expansion or development of quality collaboratives that focus on maternal or perinatal care. 	Introduced in the House
Maximizing Outcomes for Moms through Medicaid Improvement and Enhancement of Services (MOMMIES) Act (S. 1343)	Senator Booker (D-NJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends Medicaid coverage to one year postpartum for women who have pregnancy-related Medicaid coverage; • Provides comprehensive benefits to women with pregnancy-related Medicaid coverage; • Establishes a maternity care home demonstration project; • Increases Medicaid payment to at least Medicare primary care rates; • Requires guidance and reports to increase access to doula services; • Requires U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports on maternal health care in the United States and on the use of telemedicine to increase access to maternity care. 	Introduced in the Senate
Maternal Care Access and Reducing Emergencies (CARE) Act (S. 1600, H.R. 2902)	Senator Harris (D-CA) Representative Adams (D-NC12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes grant funding to health professional schools and training programs to support implicit bias training with priority given for training in obstetrics and gynecology; • Authorizes funding for a demonstration project to assist up to ten states to implement and sustain pregnancy medical home programs to incentivize integrated health care services; 	Introduced in the Senate and House

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs the National Academy of Medicine to study and make recommendations for incorporating bias recognition in clinical skills testing for U.S. medical schools. 	
Healthy Maternal and Obstetric Medicine (Healthy MOM) Act (H.R. 2778, S. 1481)	Representative Watson Coleman (D-NJ12) Senator Brown (D-OH) Senator Smith (D-MN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a special enrollment period for pregnancy in most private insurance plans • Ensures comprehensive maternity care for dependent children in most employment-based insurance • Guarantees 12-months of continuous Medicaid eligibility for postpartum women 	Introduced in the House and Senate

Introduced in the 115th Congress

Bill Name (number)	Lead Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status
Ending Maternal Mortality Act of 2018 (H.R. 5761)	Representative Krishnamoorthi (D-IL08) Representative Herrera Beutler (R-WA03)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires HHS to publish a national plan every two years to reduce the rate of preventable maternal mortality. 	Introduced in the House
Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services (MOMS) Act (S. 3568)	Senator Heitkamp (D-ND)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes funding for rural obstetric health Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Networks • Authorizes funding for health provider training programs to add a focus on rural obstetric care • Integrates maternal and obstetric care into existing telehealth programs • Requires GAO report on maternal and obstetric care in rural areas 	Introduced in the Senate

The National Partnership for Women & Families is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy group dedicated to promoting fairness in the workplace, reproductive health and rights, access to quality, affordable health care and policies that help all people meet the dual demands of work and family. More information is available at NationalPartnership.org.

© 2019 National Partnership for Women & Families. All rights reserved.