



POLICY NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 | June 2021

INITIAL ACTIONS BY BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION

During Black Maternal Health Week in April 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration outlined its plans to address the maternal health crisis in the US:

- Invest \$6.5 billion in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity by implementing bias training for healthcare providers, ensuring protection of civil rights in healthcare, improving access to reproductive and preventative health services, advancing gender and health equity, protecting rural healthcare access, and funding WIC.
- Approve extension of Medicaid postpartum coverage up to 12 months in Illinois and invite all states to provide full Medicaid benefits during pregnancy and the postpartum period.
- Provide additional \$12 million for the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies program to improve access to maternal obstetrics care in rural communities, specifically focusing on populations that have historically suffered from health disparities and poorer health outcomes.



In This Issue:

Biden-Harris Administration / Massachusetts Policies / Black Maternal Health Omnibus

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATION

Bill S.799

An Act Relative to Expanding Equitable Access to Maternal Postpartum Care

Status: Referred to Senate committee on Health Care Financing on March 29, 2021.

Key aim: To extend MassHealth coverage to pregnant and postpartum residents to 12 months following the pregnancy.

Bill H.1828

An Act Relative to the Well-Being of New Mothers and Infants

Status: Referred to House committee on The Judiciary on March 29, 2021.

Key aim: To provide mental health screenings and treatment for perinatal psychiatric conditions of postpartum psychosis and depression for new mothers facing criminal charges.

Bill S.1518

An Act Advancing the Health of Pregnant Persons

Status: Hearing scheduled for June 7, 2021.

Key aim: To expand coverage for abortion-related and postpartum care including mental health care and affirm reproductive rights for pregnant people including the right to receive abortion and abortion-related services.

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH MOMNIBUS ACT

The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 consists of 12 bills, building upon existing maternal health legislation, and is sponsored by the Black Maternal Health Caucus members in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

H.R.943 / S.851 Social Determinants for Moms Act

Addresses social determinants of health to end maternal health disparities in areas such as housing, transportation, and nutrition.

H.R.1212 / S.1042 Kira Johnson Act

Provides funding to community-based maternal health organizations.

H.R.958 / S.796 Protecting Moms Who Served Act

Researches maternal health inequities for pregnant and postpartum veterans and supports the VA's maternity care programs.

H.R.945 / S.287 Perinatal Workforce Act

Requires implementation of diverse and culturally congruent maternity care teams.

H.R.925 / S.347 Data to Save Moms Act

Expands and improves maternal health data collection processes.

H.R.909 / S.484 Moms Matter Act

Provides support to mothers with mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

H.R.948 / S.341 Justice for Incarcerated Moms Act

Funds care for pregnant and postpartum mothers who are incarcerated and examines the maternal health crisis among incarcerated people.

H.R.937 / S.893 Tech to Save Moms Act

Invests in telehealth resources to improve maternal health outcomes for mothers in underserved areas.

H.R.950 / S.334 IMPACT to Save Moms Act

Supports alternative payment models to incentivize equitable and quality maternity care and ensures stability of insurance coverage from pregnancy through one year postpartum.

H.R.8027 / S.4769 Maternal Health Pandemic Response Act

Invests in safe and respectful maternity care and improves data collection, surveillance, and research on maternal health outcomes during the COVID-19 and future pandemics.

H.R.957 / S.423 Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change Act

Supports community-based programs that focus on climate change-related risks for moms and babies.

H.R.951 / S.345 Maternal Vaccination Act

Encourages maternal immunizations to protect mothers and their babies.

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