

September 17, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy:

The 244 undersigned organizations, dedicated to the health and well-being of birthing people and their families, write to express our enthusiastic support and appreciation for the maternal health provisions included in the Committee on Energy and Commerce print of the Build Back Better Act. We appreciate the Committee's demonstrated commitment to addressing our nation's maternal mortality crisis, which disproportionately impacts Black and Indigenous people, through bold policies that will help us ensure that pregnant and postpartum people have access to critical resources, health care coverage, community-based and social supports, and the high quality health care they need in order to thrive. We urge you to swiftly enact these provisions and send them to the President's desk. Our nation's moms depend on it.

We are thrilled that a mandatory, permanent extension of postpartum Medicaid coverage, from 60 days to 12 months after delivery, is included in the Build Back Better Act. Extending postpartum Medicaid coverage is fundamental to addressing the maternal mortality crisis. Medicaid is a primary payer of maternity care in the U.S., covering 43 percent of births nationwide.<sup>i</sup> Further, about one third of maternal deaths happen in the postpartum period.<sup>ii</sup> Yet, before the enactment of the state plan option in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Medicaid coverage based on pregnancy status ended at 60 days postpartum. Since the enactment of ARPA, many states have indicated they intend to pursue the state plan option; however, we remain concerned that many states will not act to provide 12-month postpartum Medicaid coverage without a federal mandate.<sup>iii</sup> The evidence is clear that disruptions in insurance coverage during the postpartum period are contributing to adverse maternal health outcomes. We appreciate that the Build Back Better Act prioritizes moms by ensuring that every person across the nation who relies on Medicaid for pregnancy-related care will have the critical coverage they need during an extremely consequential time in their health. We strongly support this provision and urge its swift enactment.

Similarly, we are grateful that the Build Back Better Act includes robust investments in programs that take steps towards birth equity by centering the voices, needs, and preferences of Black and Indigenous individuals, who disproportionately experience inequities in maternal health. In particular, we are thrilled that provisions of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act have been included, with a focus on investing in community-based organizations, addressing social determinants of maternal health, expanding the perinatal workforce, addressing the impacts of climate change on maternal and infant health, increasing community engagement in maternal mortality review committees, supporting targeted research at Minority-Serving Institutions, investing in maternal mental health, and improving the

provision of culturally congruent care. These historic investments are critical to improving Black maternal health. We urge Congress to swiftly advance these provisions to enactment.

Thank you again for your continued commitment to addressing the maternal mortality crisis and improving maternal health. We urge Congress to swiftly enact these important provisions.

Sincerely,

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
1,000 Days  
2020 Mom  
A Better Balance  
Abide Women's Health Services  
Abilities Plus Inc  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Access Esperanza Clinics  
Acclaim Physician Group  
Advocate Aurora Health  
AFE Foundation  
African American Breastfeeding Network Inc.  
Alliance for Black NICU Families  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
Alliance to End Hunger  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Birth Centers  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology District XI (Texas)  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Heart Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
Ancient Song Doula Services  
Anxiety & Depression Association of America  
APS Foundation of America, Inc  
Arkansas Birthing Project  
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Association for Community Affiliated Plans  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
AVANCE-Houston, Inc.  
Baby Cafe USA  
Babyscripts  
Birth Supporters United  
Black Mamas Matter Alliance  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association  
Blue Shield of California  
Boston Medical Center  
BreastfeedLA  
California Breastfeeding Coalition  
California Nurse-Midwives Association  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Centering Healthcare Institute  
CHILDREN AT RISK  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Defense Fund - Texas  
Children's Health Fund  
Children's HealthWatch  
Circle Up, United Methodist Women  
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities  
Collaborative for Children  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Common Good Iowa  
COMMONSENSE CHILDBIRTH  
Community Catalyst  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Council For A Strong America, Texas  
Covis Pharma  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)  
Doula Philosophy  
Dr. Shalon's Maternal Action Project  
Duke Health  
Easterseals  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)  
Enhanced Childbirth  
Equitable Maternal Health Coalition  
Every Body Texas  
Every Mother Counts  
Every Texan (formerly CPPP)  
Families USA  
Fayetteville Police Accountability Community Taskforce  
Federation of American Hospitals  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
First3Years  
Friendly Temple Church  
GALS Austin  
GLO Premies  
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health & Social Justice  
Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!)

Guideline Central  
Healing Hands Community Doula Project  
Health Care Transformation Task Force  
HealthConnect One  
Healthy Futures of Texas  
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia  
HealthyWomen  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Hospital Quality Institute  
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)  
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda  
International OCD Foundation  
Irth-Birth Without Bias  
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health  
Kansas Action for Children  
Kansas Birth Equity Network  
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition  
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center  
Lamaze International  
Legacy Community Health  
Lifeline for Families Center at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School  
LinkedInclusion  
Luna Tierra Casa de Partos  
Majaica, LLC  
Mama Peace  
Mamas on Bedrest & Beyond  
Mamatoto Village  
Marcé of North America (MONA)  
March for Moms  
March of Dimes  
Maternal Applications of Technology for Community Health (MATCH) Coalition  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
Maternity Care Coalition  
Melinated Moms  
Mental Health America  
Mental Health America of Greater Dallas  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.  
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health  
Mom Congress  
Momma's Village-Fayetteville, Inc  
Moms Clean Air Force  
MomsRising  
MS Black Women's Roundtable  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Rural Health Clinics  
National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter

National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Jewish Women - Pittsburgh Section  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Healthy Start Association  
National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice  
National League for Nursing  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Perinatal Task Force  
National Rural Health Association  
National Urban League  
National WIC Association  
NC Child  
NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Nzuri Doula Services  
Nzuri Malkia Birth Collective  
Oklahoma Policy Institute  
Oral Health Kansas, Inc.  
PA Coalition for Oral Health  
Parents as Teachers  
Partners In Health  
Patient Safety Movement Foundation  
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Postpartum Support International  
Postpartum Support International Alaska Chapter  
Power to Decide  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
PremieWorld, LLC  
Pregnancy and Postpartum Health Alliance of Texas  
Prevention Institute  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Primary Maternity Care  
Prolacta Bioscience  
Restoring Our Own Transformation (ROOTT)  
RESULTS  
RI International, Inc.  
riskLD, Inc.  
Shriver Center on Poverty Law  
Sista Midwife Productions  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Star Legacy Foundation

Start Early  
Teaching Hospitals of Texas  
Tennessee Justice Center  
Texans Care for Children  
Texas AFL-CIO  
Texas Association of Community Health Plans  
Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
Texas Chapter Postpartum Support International  
Texas Council on Family Violence  
Texas Medical Association  
Texas Pediatric Society, the Texas Chapter of the AAP  
Texas Women's Foundation  
Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition  
TexProtects  
The 2 Degrees Foundation  
The Community Health Acceleration Partnership  
The Community Outcomes Fund at Maycomb Capital  
The Episcopal Church  
The Fibroid Foundation  
The Foundation for the Advancement of Midwifery  
The Joint Commission  
The Kennedy Forum  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The PPRM Foundation  
The Root Cause Coalition  
Trust for America's Health  
Trying Together  
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Way for Greater Austin  
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas  
United Ways of Texas  
University Health  
Urban Baby Beginnings  
Urban Mommy INC  
Virginia Health Catalyst  
Wayne State University  
What to Expect Project  
Women Veterans Intreractive  
Women's & Men's Health Services Coastal Bend  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
Wyoming Women's Action Network  
Young Invincibles

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<sup>i</sup> 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>

<sup>ii</sup> 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.

<sup>iii</sup> American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Extend Postpartum Medicaid Coverage. Available at: <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/policy-priorities/extend-postpartum-medicaid-coverage>