

Federal Legislation Focused on Maternal Health: A Status Update

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 are working to build on that progress. The table below summarizes the status of federal legislation related to improving maternal health in the United States.

Bills signed into law 2018			
Bill Name/Number	Lead Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status/Notes
Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2018 (H.R. 1318/S. 1112)	Representative Herrera Beutler (R-WA03) Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends the Public Health Service act and directs HHS to take specified steps to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes; Specifically directs HHS to establish a program under which HHS may make grants to states for the purpose of establishing and sustaining a maternal mortality review committee and ensuring that the state department of health develops a plan for ongoing health care provider education among other measures that contribute to the elimination of disparities. 	Became law on December 21, 2018
Improving Access to Maternity Care Act (H.R. 315/S. 783)	Representative Michael Burgess (R-TX26) Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to identify maternity care health professional target areas, as defined as areas within health professional shortage areas that have a shortage of maternity care health professionals; Requires HRSA to collect and publish data comparing the availability of and need for maternity care health services in health professional shortage areas and areas within those areas. 	Became law on December 17, 2018

Bill Status 2019 (116th Congress)

Bill Name/Number	Lead Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status/Notes
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 (AIM)</i>. 	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 (AIM)</i>. • 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. 	Introduced in the Senate
Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act (H.R. 1551)	Representative Engel (D-NY16) Representative Stivers (R-OH15) *Senator Stabenow (D-MI) has introduced 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 <i>Introduced in previous Congresses with no action.</i>

Bills Previously Introduced**			
Name/Number	Sponsor(s)	Summary	Status/Notes
Maximizing Outcomes for Moms through Medicaid Improvement and Enhancement of Services (MOMMIES) Act	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. 	NOT YET introduced in 116 th Congress
Maternal Care Access and Reducing Emergencies (CARE)	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; • Directs the National Academy of Medicine to study and make recommendations for incorporating bias recognition in clinical skills testing for U.S. medical schools. 	NOT YET introduced in 116 th Congress
Ending Maternal Mortality Act of 2018	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. 	NOT YET introduced in 116 th Congress
Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services (MOMS) Act	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 	NOT YET introduced in 116 th Congress

***Bills that are not passed by both Chambers and signed into law by the end of session must be re-introduced and proceed through the regular legislative process.*