

For interviews, contact:

Kerri Wade, MPA

kwade@smfm.org

+ 1 (202) 517-6121

Experts in High-Risk Pregnancy Applaud House Action on Medicaid Extension Legislation
A Full Year of Medicaid Coverage After Birth is a Key Strategy in Reducing Maternal Deaths and Improving Health Equity

February 10, 2021, Washington, DC – The Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) issued the statement below regarding the February 11, 2021 mark-up of legislation in the House Energy and Commerce Committee that would allow states to provide postpartum Medicaid coverage a full year after birth.

“Medicaid is the largest single payer of childbirth services in the United States, funding nearly one-half of all births nationwide. Most state Medicaid programs provide coverage to eligible women for 60 days after the birth of a baby. Yet, the risks of pregnancy-related complications don't end in this limited window of time. In fact, nearly one-third of all pregnancy-related deaths occur 43 to 365 days postpartum.

SMFM supports federal and state policies that expand Medicaid eligibility and [continue Medicaid coverage through 12 months postpartum](#) as a key strategy to address the maternal morbidity and mortality crisis and improve health equity. As such, SMFM applauds the House Energy and Commerce Committee for including a provision in its COVID-19 relief package that would make it easier for states to provide 12 months of continuous postpartum Medicaid coverage.”

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About SMFM

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is a non-profit, membership organization based in Washington, DC. With more than 5,000 physicians, scientists and women’s health professionals around the world, the Society supports the clinical practice of maternal-fetal medicine by providing education, promoting research, and engaging in advocacy to optimize the health of high-risk pregnant women and their babies. SMFM hosts an annual scientific meeting in which new ideas and research related to high- risk pregnancies are unveiled and discussed. For more information, visit [SMFM.org](https://www.smfm.org).