



**For media interviews, contact:**

Kerri Wade, MPA  
[kwade@smfm.org](mailto:kwade@smfm.org)  
+ 1 (202) 517-6121

***Experts in High-Risk Pregnancy Applaud Postpartum Medicaid Extension  
COVID-19 Relief Package Will Allow States to Provide Coverage for New Mothers, Reducing  
Maternal Morbidity and Mortality***

**Friday, March 12, 2021** – On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*. The new law includes a slate of public health measures and Medicaid improvements, including a provision that will allow states to extend Medicaid coverage from 60 days to one full year postpartum. The Society for Maternal-Fetal (SMFM) released the following statement in response:

“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 individuals 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 has long supported 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 in the U.S. and improve health equity. As such, SMFM applauds Congress and President Biden for advancing Medicaid extension. Improved access to postpartum healthcare is an essential step in improving maternal health outcomes.”

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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 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 people 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).