



The Maximizing Outcomes for Moms through Medicaid Improvement and Enhancement of Services Act (MOMMIES) Act

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Background

In the United States, more than 80% of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women. Multiple factors contribute to this disparity, such as variation in quality healthcare, underlying chronic conditions, and structural racism. Social determinants of health also impact the economic, physical, and emotional health of people from racial and ethnic minority groups. It is imperative that we take bold and deliberate action to address the maternal morbidity crisis.

MOMMIES Act

This bill would improve maternal and infant health disparities by promoting dignity, respect, and culturally responsive support during and after pregnancy. The MOMMIES Act aims to lessen the incidence of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity by increasing coverage for pregnant people and providing comprehensive, affordable maternal health care services.

Specifically, the MOMMIES Act addresses the maternal health crisis inequities by:

1. **Expanding Medicaid coverage to include a full range of services to ensure people have access to comprehensive care throughout pregnancy, labor, and postpartum.** The MOMMIES Act would extend coverage for Medicaid's pregnancy pathway from 60 days to a full year after the end of pregnancy and would ensure that eligible new mothers have access to full comprehensive care, including oral health services, rather than services only related to their pregnancy.
2. **Increasing Medicaid minimum reimbursement rates for maternal and obstetric services for people in underserved areas.** The MOMMIES Act incentivizes health providers to participate in the Medicaid program.
3. **Establishing a maternity care home model demonstration project.** Using a racial equity lens and trauma-informed approach, the MOMMIES Act would create a demonstration project to establish medical care homes, birth centers, and health facilities in underserved communities.
4. **Directing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to issue guidance on community-based doula care.** The MOMMIES Act would direct Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Payment and Access

Commission to report on the coverage of doula care under state Medicaid programs and create strategies to improve access to pre- and post-partum doula care. It would also require CMS to issue guidance to states on increasing care for doula services under Medicaid.

5. **Studying telehealth as a mechanism for increasing access to maternity care.** The MOMMIES Act would require U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit a report to Congress on state Medicaid's use of telehealth to increase access to maternity care, including an analysis of barriers and recommendation for increasing access to telemedicine maternity services.