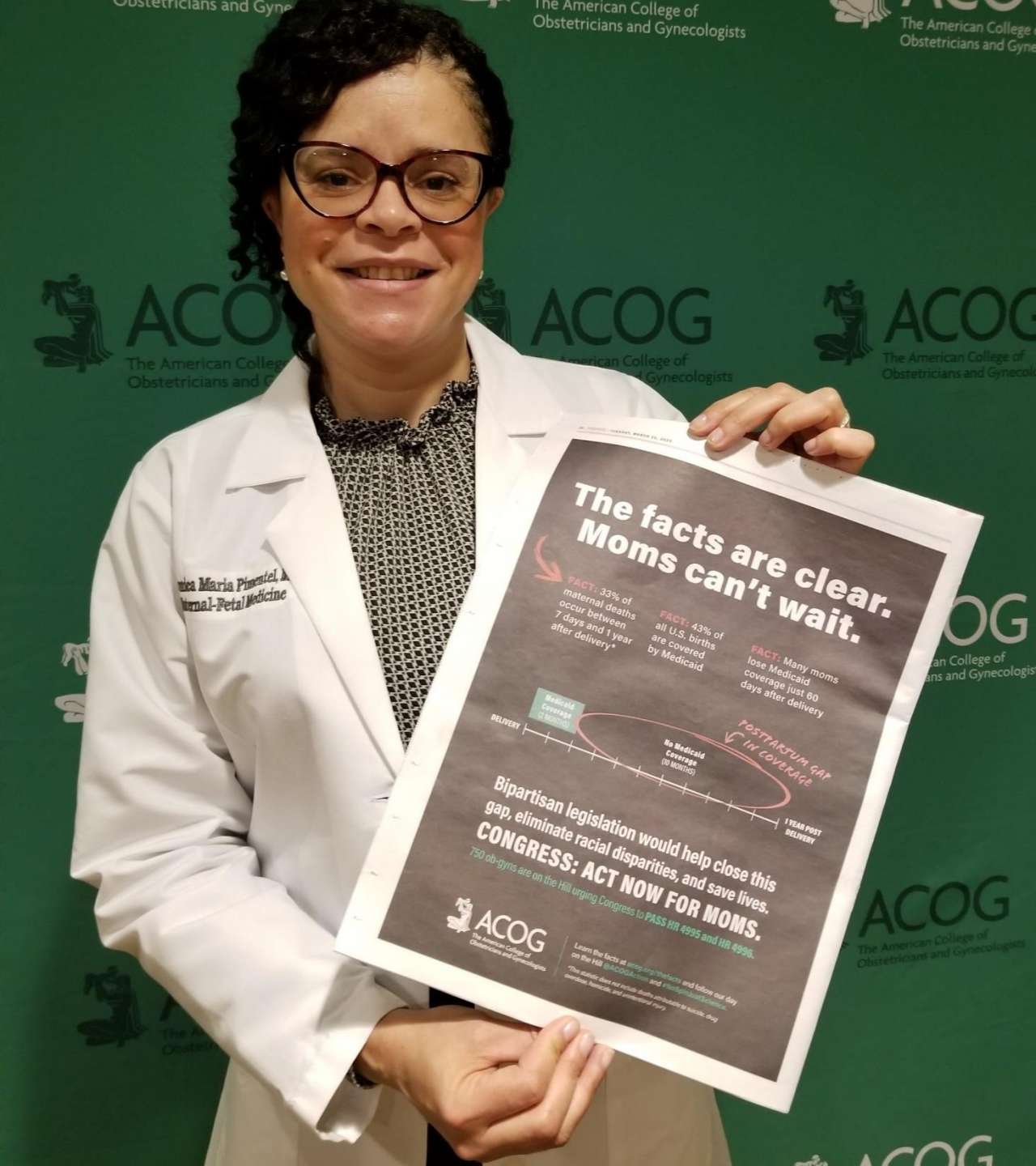


Extending Medicaid Coverage for Pregnant Women Beyond 60 Days Postpartum

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Dr. Pimentel
Advocating for
Extending Medicaid
Coverage for
Pregnant Women for
12-months
Postpartum during
ACOG's
Congressional
Leadership
Conference

Let me introduce you to DL

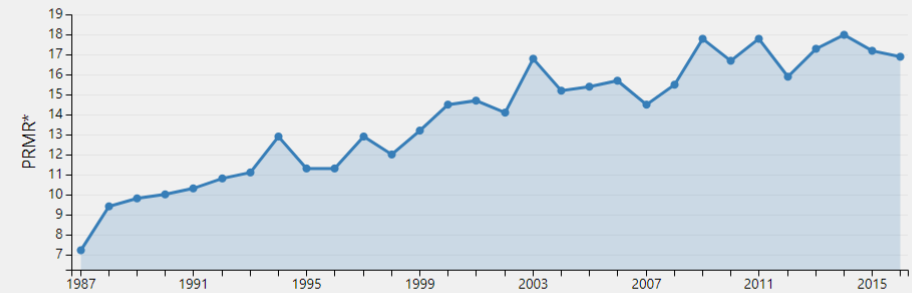
The United States is experiencing a maternal health crisis

- The United States is the only industrialized nation with a maternal mortality rate that is on the rise, increasing 26 percent between 2000 and 2014
- Black women and American Indian/Alaska Native women are 3.3 and 2.5 times more likely, respectively, to die from pregnancy related causes than non-Hispanic white women
- **More than half of these deaths are preventable**

Trends in Pregnancy-Related Deaths

Since the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System was implemented, the number of reported pregnancy-related deaths in the United States steadily increased from 7.2 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1987 to 16.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2016. The graph below shows trends in pregnancy-related mortality ratios defined as the number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births in the United States between 1987 and 2016 (the latest available year of data).

Trends in pregnancy-related mortality in the United States: 1987-2016



*Number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births per year

■ Pregnancy-related mortality ratio [Reset](#)

Data Table

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Pregnancy-related mortality ratio	7.2	9.4	9.8	10	10.3	10.8	11.1	12.9	11.3	11.3

**The
postpartum
period is a time
of vulnerability
for new
mothers**

- The transition from pregnancy to full recovery is when many women experience unmet health needs
- Nearly 70 percent of women describe at least one physical problem in the first year of the postpartum period

The postpartum period is especially a vulnerable time for women on Medicaid

- Many women on Medicaid are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage just 60 days after the end of pregnancy
 - Once this coverage ends, many women enter an unsafe period of uninsurance
 - Compared to women with private insurance, women with Medicaid coverage are more likely to have had a prior preterm birth, low birthweight baby, and experience certain chronic conditions, putting them at higher risk of maternal morbidity and mortality



Extending postpartum coverage can help

- **~ 29 percent of pregnancy-related deaths occur between 43 and 365 days postpartum**
 - This is an underestimate as it does not include pregnancy-associated deaths or deaths to women over the age of 44
 - These numbers are higher for Black women, who represent a large portion of Medicaid beneficiaries
- Extending coverage would align the mom's coverage with that of her infant.
 - Infants born on Medicaid are guaranteed coverage through the first year of life

Extending postpartum coverage is rooted in clinical evidence

- The CDC defines the postpartum period as extending through 12 months after the end of pregnancy
- Data demonstrate that women who have recently given birth have health needs that continue throughout an infant's first year of life
- Some of the most dangerous pregnancy-related complications – preeclampsia, blood clots, and heart problems such as cardiomyopathy – may not surface until weeks or months after delivery

**Extending
postpartum
coverage is
likely to save
money**

- Severe maternal morbidity costs billions of dollars every year
 - Many of these costs could be avoided if women remain covered under Medicaid and have their conditions addressed before becoming progressively severe

Extending postpartum coverage has wide support that continues to grow

✓ Among the physician community

- ✓ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- ✓ Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
- ✓ American Medical Association
- ✓ American Academy of Family Physicians
- ✓ American Academy of Pediatrics
- ✓ American Psychiatric Association

✓ Among other stakeholders

- ✓ March of Dimes
- ✓ Black Mamas Matter Alliance
- ✓ American Hospital Association
- ✓ Medicaid Health Plans of America
- ✓ America's Health Insurance Plans.

H.R. 4996 – Helping MOMS ACT

A bipartisan bill that would create a state plan option under Medicaid to provide 12 months of continuous coverage to postpartum women

H.R. 4996 – Helping MOMS ACT

Passed the House on 9/29/2020



H.R. 4996 – Helping MOMS ACT

Passes the House on 9/29/2020



Congress did not advance it

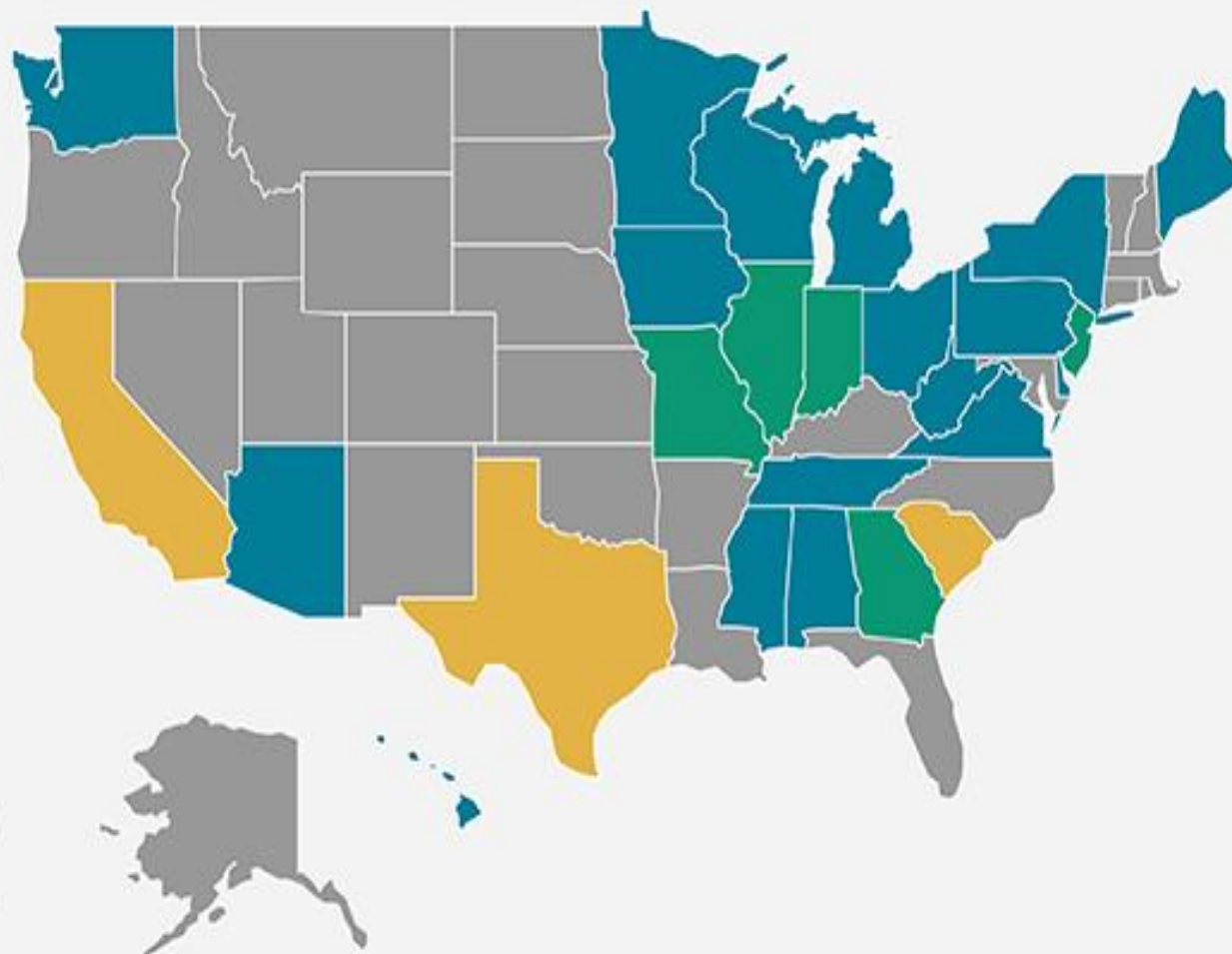


State Efforts to Extend Medicaid Coverage for Pregnant Women Beyond 60 Days Postpartum

(as of November 20, 2020)

- No Action
- Legislation Pending
- Waiver Pending
- Implementing (Limited Coverage Extension)

CA, SC, and TX are currently operating limited extensions of postpartum coverage. For more information, visit acog.org/PostpartumMedicaid



Problem

The United States is experiencing a
maternal health crisis

Unsafe gaps in health insurance
coverage, particularly for women on
Medicaid, are contributing to poor
maternal health outcomes

**Connecticut can
provide a solution
by extending
Medicaid coverage
for postpartum
women**

Extending Medicaid will help ensure new moms have continuous, uninterrupted access to care to address their ongoing health needs, including those unrelated to pregnancy

Thank you