

Extending Postpartum Coverage Under Medicaid

LB 419 - Requires submission of a Medicaid State Plan amendment to extend postpartum coverage.

Introducing Senator: Sen. Anna Wishart
Co-sponsors: Sen. Terrell McKinney
District 27
Room 8th Floor
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Why is this legislation important?

Barriers already exist to adequate healthcare quality and access, which we know falls hardest on people of color, low-income folks, and rural Nebraskans. In addition, people of color experience a stark difference in maternal health outcomes compared to the majority population, due to systemic oppression and racism. Losing coverage 60 days after birth perpetuates disparities in maternal health outcomes, including but not limited to; pregnancy-related complications, induced chronic illnesses, and postpartum depression.

Ways to Take Action!

1. Testify at the Legislature

When: Feb 2, 1:30 PM

State Capitol: 1445 K St Lincoln NE 68508

Room: 1510

Committee: Health and Human Services

In person testimony is preferred and most impactful!

At the LB 419 committee hearing, community members can voice their support of the policy:

1. Have one person for your organization testify in person
2. Have one community member with lived experience testify in person

TIPS FOR TESTIFYING:

1. Your testimony should be 3-5 minutes long
2. Open your testimony by stating your name, spelling it, and what organization you are representing. If an individual testifying does not represent an organization, they are able to represent themselves.
3. You are an expert in your own story. Make sure your testimony speaks to the experiences and expertise you hold
4. You do not have to give the senators a printed copy of your testimony but it helps! If you bring handouts or attachments, bring at least 10 sets.
5. Parking SUCKS- make sure to leave in enough time to find parking and the room. Try to arrive 20 mins early.



2. Ask your network to submit a testimony online.

LINK FOR SUBMISSION

1. If you are not testifying in-person at a public hearing on a bill and would like to submit written comments to be included in the official hearing record as an exhibit, you will find a link to submit your comments online on the chamber viewer page for each bill.
2. Comments are allowed once a bill has been scheduled for a public hearing and must be submitted prior to 12:00 p.m. CST on the last work day prior to the public hearing to be included in the official hearing record.

3. Contact the HHS Committee

Use your network, and encourage contacting the following Senators to ask them to move LB 419 out of committee:

HHS Committee Members

Ben Hansen (Chair) (District 16) bhansen@leg.ne.gov

Brian Hardin (Vice Chair) (District 48) bhardin@leg.ne.gov

Beau Ballard (District 21) bballard@leg.ne.gov

Machaela Cavanaugh (District 6) mcavanaugh@leg.ne.gov

Jen Day (District 49) jday@leg.ne.gov

Merv Riepe (District 12) mriepe@leg.ne.gov

Lynne Walz (District 15) lwalz@leg.ne.gov

4. Use your Social

Spread the word on social media! Whether Facebook, Twitter, TikTok or LinkedIn, you can use your digital power and influence to support the extension of postpartum coverage in Nebraska. Need some help getting started? We've got you covered:

Black women die from pregnancy-related causes more than three times the rate of white women, and experience Severe Maternal Morbidity at a rate 73% higher than white women. One contributing factor is the lack of a health care safety net for postpartum women who receive health insurance from Medicaid.

Join me as we fight for outcomes where Black birthing people don't just survive, but thrive! Learn more at:

<https://www.ibebblackgirl.com/extending-postpartum-coverage/>

I BE  BLACK GIRL

Expanding
postpartum coverage
under Medicaid **from**
60 days to 12 months
will improve Black
maternal health.

JOIN THE FIGHT TODAY!

Key Messages

Below is important information to help you craft your testimony

- In Nebraska, 75% of maternal deaths reported are preventable and many factors stem from a lack of insurance. ¹
 - In Nebraska, around 1 in 3 births are covered by Medicaid ²
 - Of Nebraskans who died from pregnancy-related issues, 60% were due to Medical factors.
 - Nebraska's Office of Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology reports of factors contributing to maternal death, almost 30% are due to lack of access/financial resources or continuity of care. ³
 - On average, Nebraska's maternal deaths occurred 128 days after the end of pregnancy ⁴
- A lot of new moms experience post-birth depression and anxiety (*there is not data on gender expansive pregnant people*)
 - 1 in 9 new mothers experience postpartum depression (PPD) ⁵
 - More than 50% of mothers at lower incomes experience depression between 2 weeks and 14 months of birth ⁶
 - Black birthing women and people are more likely to have PPD but less likely to receive treatment ⁷
 - PPD when not treated can create issues in bonding, feeding, and cause mental, emotional, and developmental complications in children. ⁸
- Inequities experienced by Black birthing people are, in part, due to laws capping state Medicaid coverage for pregnant women at 60 days after the end of pregnancy. ⁹
 - 26.6% of Nebraska's Medicaid beneficiaries are Black ¹⁰, despite being 5% of the state's population. ¹¹
 - The share of births covered by Medicaid is much higher for Black birthing people, at 65% ¹²
 - Black birthing people are more likely, compared to white birthing people, to endure risk factors during birth that increase the likelihood of infant death and can have long-term negative consequences for children's health. ¹³

¹ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ed4f5e9127dab51d7a53f8e/t/5ee113529592717e00288400/1591808867699/Maternal+Health+Federal+Talking+Points+060820-V7b.pdf>

² <https://dhhs.ne.gov/PRAMS%20Documents/Maternal%20Mortality%20Report%202021.pdf>

³ <https://dhhs.ne.gov/PRAMS%20Documents/Maternal%20Mortality%20Report%202021.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.clasp.org/blog/expanding-medicare-postpartum-care-critical-black-maternal-health>

⁵ <https://www.womenshealth.gov/mental-health/mental-health-conditions/postpartum-depression>

⁶ <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/news/story/low-income-urban-mothers-have-high-rate-of-postpartum-depression>

⁷ <https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/July-2021/Addressing-the-Increased-Risk-of-Postpartum-Depression-for-Black-Women>

⁸ <https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/July-2021/Addressing-the-Increased-Risk-of-Postpartum-Depression-for-Black-Women>

⁹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7480528/>

¹⁰ <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/nonelderly-medic-aid-rate-by-raceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&selectedDistributions=black&sortModel=%7B%22colld%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

¹¹ <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Reports/Minority%20Population%20Report%20Card.pdf>

¹² <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/closing-the-coverage-gap-would-improve-black-maternal-health>

¹³ <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/racial-disparities-maternal-infant-health-overview/>

Additional Resources:

From Pregnancy to Postpartum: The Effects of Maternal Depression on Mothers, Infants and Toddlers" (2019).

Early Research Shows Benefits of One Year of Postpartum Medicaid" (2022).

North Dakota Expands Medicaid Postpartum Coverage

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Closing the Coverage Gap Would Improve Black Maternal Health

Kaiser Family Foundation Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health: Current Status and Efforts to Address Them

Maternal Mortality Report 2021

Medicaid Postpartum Extension Tracker

Extending Medicaid Coverage for Postpartum Moms

Spillover Effects of Adult Medicaid Expansions on Children's Use of Preventive Services