



North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys

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June 28, 2021

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Re: North Carolina Association of Women Attorney's Support for
Extension of Medicaid to Twelve Months Postpartum

Dear Legislator,

I write to you today on behalf of the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys (NCAWA). The mission of NCAWA is to advance the rights and welfare of women under the law. NCAWA strongly supports the provision in the proposed Senate Budget to extend Medicaid postpartum to twelve months.

Postpartum mortality is a serious problem for women in North Carolina. Studies show that the majority of maternal deaths occur after delivery, rather than during pregnancy or on the day of a baby's birth. According to America's Health Rankings, the maternal mortality rate in North Carolina is around 27 women per 100,000 live births. The rate for Black women in North Carolina is more than twice that average, at 56.8 deaths per 100,000 live births.¹ A North Carolina study showed that 40 percent of maternal deaths could have been prevented with adequate health care.²

Obviously, adequate medical care for a mother is critical in the first year after the birth of her child. However, many low- and moderate-income women lose Medicaid eligibility after 60 days postpartum, and the coverage gap between Medicaid eligibility and the ACA Marketplace leaves many vulnerable to losing coverage in the postpartum period.³

The extension of Medicaid to twelve months postpartum could lead to improved health outcomes for new mothers in North Carolina, and help reduce our rising maternal mortality. We urge you to enact this provision in the proposed Senate Budget. If you would like to discuss our organization's support for the extension of Medicaid postpartum to twelve months, our leadership would be happy to speak with you regarding this matter. Please feel free to email NCAWA President Laura Loyek at laura@lawyersmutualnc.com.



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Thank you for your consideration of our position on this important matter.

Sincerely,

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN ATTORNEYS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura M. Loyek". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Laura M. Loyek
President

¹ https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/health-of-women-and-children/measure/maternal_mortality_a/state/NC?edition-year=2019

² Berg, Cynthia J. MD, MPH; Harper, Margaret A. MD, MS; Atkinson, Samuel M. MD; Bell, Elizabeth A. MD; Brown, Haywood L. MD; Hage, Marvin L. MD; Mitra, Avick G. MD; Moise, Kenneth J. Jr MD; Callaghan, William M. MD, MPH Preventability of Pregnancy-Related Deaths, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*: December 2005 - Volume 106 - Issue 6 - p 1228-1234 doi: 10.1097/01.AOG.0000187894.71913.e8.

³ <https://nciom.org/expanding-pregnancy-medicaid-coverage-up-to-one-year-after-delivery/>