

February 7, 2021

Representative Kelly Morrison

Minnesota House of Representatives
507 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Melissa Wiklund

Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W., Room 2227
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: [HF521/SF735](#) Extending medical assistance postpartum coverage

Dear Representative Morrison and Senator Wiklund,

We write today in support for extending Medicaid coverage from 60 to 365 days postpartum for Minnesota mothers. Extending postpartum care to one year is critical to reducing life threatening health complications for mothers after giving birth. While we acknowledge that extending Medicaid coverage to one year postpartum won't solve all of these problems, it is a key step in conversations about maternal care.

- According to the DHS, around 10,000 women per year qualify for Medicaid based solely on their pregnancy and nearly 40% of these mothers lose health coverage 60 days after giving birth.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that one in three pregnancy related deaths happened one week to one full year after birth; when factoring in suicide and overdose, over 52% of pregnancy related deaths in the U.S. happen after delivery.
- One in seven women experience prenatal and/or postpartum depression and anxiety.
- For Black women, this harm is ever more present; almost 15 percent of pregnancy related deaths that occur between 43 days to one year postpartum are Black women.
- The maternal mortality rate continues to rise in this country, especially for Black and Indigenous women for whom the maternal death rate is 4-5 times higher than for white women.

Already 36 states and DC have expanded eligibility for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act and offer low income women the opportunity to continue their pregnancy related Medicaid coverage to one year postpartum. Minnesota should join this list of states who have addressed this issue to give moms and babies a healthy start to life. We thank you for your support and dedication to the health of Minnesota mothers and urge your ongoing support.

Sincerely,



Jennifer DeCubellis, CEO
Hennepin Healthcare system