

SUPPORT #BLANKETCHANGE

PREVENT WOMEN FROM DYING FROM PREGNANCY-RELATED CAUSES.

The U.S. has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the developed world, with over 700 women dying each year and over 50,000 suffering severe complications during pregnancy. Numerous bills have been introduced in Congress to prevent the tragic and preventable death of mothers during and after childbirth:

S. 1112, the Maternal Mortality Accountability Act/H.R. 1318, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act would help establish and support maternal mortality review committees, which make investigate the death of pregnant women and new mothers and make recommendation on how prevent future deaths

H.R. 5977, MOMMA's Act, would promote hospitals' adoption of safety best practices for childbirth, postpartum coverage of women under Medicaid and CHIP, and implicit bias training for health care providers

S. 3363/H.R. 6698, Maternal CARE Act, would promote maternity care medical homes and implicit bias training for health care providers

H.R. 5761, Ending Maternal Mortality Act, would require the federal government to develop a plan to reduce maternal mortality by 50% over 10 years

S. 3392, Modernizing Obstetric Medicine Standards (MOMS) Act, would promote hospitals' adoption of safety best practices for childbirth and data collection

S. 3494, the Maximizing Outcomes for Moms through Medicaid Improvement and Enhancement of Services (MOMMIES) Act, would extend health coverage for women after birth and promote innovation in pregnancy care

REQUIRE ALL HEALTH PLANS TO COVER PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS.

All people need health insurance, especially if they have a pre-existing condition. The Affordable Care Act requires all plans to offer coverage to all individuals without discriminating them based on their health status.

But guaranteeing that people can get a health plan is only the first step. That insurance also needs to be affordable and cover the benefits they need. To date, none of the proposals offered in Congress include all three of those protections. Without all three, repealing the Affordable Care Act will leave some moms and babies out in the cold.

REQUIRE ALL HEALTH PLANS TO COVER MATERNITY AND NEWBORN CARE.

Every health plan should cover maternity and newborn care, including prenatal care, labor and delivery, and hospital care for mom and baby. Prior to passage of the Affordable Care Act, only 13% of plans offered in the individual insurance market included any coverage for maternity care. Insurance coverage is essential to ensuring that both mom and baby can get everything they need to be healthy.

Some policymakers have suggested that women shouldn't have to carry insurance with maternity care if they don't plan to get pregnant. Given that about 50% of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unplanned, it's vital that all plans cover maternity care—even for people who don't expect to need it. [Learn more here](#) and hear about why everyone needs maternity coverage (men too!)

ENSURE NEW MOMS DON'T HAVE TO TRADE MATERNAL HEALTH BENEFITS THEY NEED TO AFFORD HEALTH COVERAGE.

The Affordable Care Act banned annual and lifetime caps on health coverage, limited out-of-pocket costs, and included provisions designed to make premiums more affordable. None of the alternative proposals voted on by Congress in recent years contained strong protections against high costs for consumers.

Short term plans and association health plans can charge lower premiums because they are allowed to offer fewer benefits and consumer protections. These plans can refuse to cover whole categories of care, like maternity and newborn care. They can also impose annual or lifetime caps on benefits, which can rapidly be reached by a family with a baby born preterm who needs weeks of hospital care.

PREVENT AND TREAT PRETERM BIRTH.

One in every 10 babies is born too early in the U.S., and some need to stay in the hospital for weeks or months. Policymakers who support the prevention and treatment of preterm birth are cosponsors of [H.R. 6085/S. 3029, the PREMIE Act](#), the only federal law that supports research and services for preemies and their families.

EVEN ONE BABY LOSING ITS MOM FROM CHILDBIRTH IS TOO MANY. BUT IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT EVERY BABY HAS A BETTER CHANCE TO GROW UP WITH A MOM.