

Dear _____

Date _____

Extend Postpartum Medicaid Eligibility to 12 months in the State Budget

Wisconsin is facing an unacceptable maternal mortality crisis that disproportionately impacts Black women and other communities of color. This crisis also disproportionately impacts women who rely on Medicaid for pregnancy-related care, as most of these women lose eligibility for coverage 60 days after the end of pregnancy. While some women can successfully transition to other sources of coverage at this time, many are left in the unsafe position of being uninsured shortly after a major medical event.

The weeks following birth are a critical period for a woman and her infant, setting the stage for long-term health and well-being. The stress of pregnancy may bring on newly diagnosed conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders, renal disease and significant cardiac conditions that need ongoing medical care. In addition, mental health conditions such as postpartum depression and substance use disorder require ongoing treatment.

The U.S. is the only developed country in which maternal mortality is increasing. The number of maternal deaths in Wisconsin has risen over the past 10 years. More than 60% of maternal deaths are preventable. Over half of all maternal deaths occur more than 60 days postpartum. The number of deaths occurring 6-12 months after delivery is increasing.

When women have access to care, they are healthier, their babies are healthier, and health care costs go down! Without insurance and treatment, women are at higher risk of dying – including months after delivery – and so are their babies.

Fortunately, our state lawmakers can take action to change this antiquated policy and give women Medicaid coverage for the full 12 months postpartum.

MOMS CAN'T WAIT!!! You must act to extend postpartum coverage to 12 months for new moms on Medicaid in the 2021-23 budget!

Name, address, email