

PPC Action Alert

Tell Your Senators: Support the Helping MOMS Act

Now is a critical time for academic pediatricians to **contact your U.S. senators and tell them to support the Helping Medicaid Offer Maternity Services Act (Helping MOMS Act), HR 4996.**

The Helping MOMS Act would allow states to extend Medicaid coverage to postpartum mothers for up to 12 months. The bipartisan legislation already passed the House of Representatives unanimously and now it is up to the Senate to act.

Under current federal law, pregnancy-related Medicaid ends 60 days after the end of pregnancy. This arbitrary cliff leaves many women uninsured and unable to address their postpartum health needs shortly after giving birth.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 700 pregnancy-related deaths occur in the U.S. each year, with more than half of these deaths being preventable. Equally concerning are the stark racial disparities in maternal mortality: Black women are three to four times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related complication than non-Hispanic white women.

The Helping MOMS Act would help us move the needle on maternal mortality by mitigating barriers to coverage, helping to prevent disruptions in care, and providing women the access to care that is necessary to improving maternal health outcomes and eliminating preventable maternal deaths.

Please contact your senators and tell them to consider and pass the Helping MOMS Act.

Here's how:

- **By Phone:** You can call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected to your senate offices. You also can find your senators by going to [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) and using the "Find Your Senators" feature at the top left of the page. The contact information for their Washington, DC office is available on their websites. Talking points are below.
- **By Email:** Once you've identified your senator using the "Find Your Senators" feature on [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov), you can contact your senators directly through their websites. You can modify the points below to craft a custom message to your senators.

Talking points:

- Hello. My name is Dr. {insert name} and I am an academic pediatrician from {city}. I am calling today to urge {Senator's name} to consider and pass the Helping MOMS Act, HR 4996.
- As a pediatrician and a researcher, I speak first hand to the connection between the health of the mother and the health of the child.
- This bipartisan bill would allow states to extend Medicaid coverage to postpartum mothers for up to 12 months. This means that new mothers would be able to continue to receive the care they need to be healthy.

- Right now, pregnancy-related Medicaid ends 60 days after the end of pregnancy. This arbitrary cliff leaves many women uninsured and unable to address their postpartum health needs shortly after giving birth.
- Medicaid coverage can help identify and treat mothers with maternal depression, which can help improve the health of her children as well.
- Other chronic conditions that need treatment during the postpartum period include hypertension and diabetes.
- I hope {Senator's name} will consider supporting the Helping MOMS Act.
- Thank you for your time.