



2019 Annual Meeting & Conference

.....
OCTOBER 28-29, 2019
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Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia (HMHBGA) is a non-partisan 501(c)3 and does not support or oppose any candidate for federal, state or local elected office.

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Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies. In That Order.

Centering Mother's Voices in Maternal Care.



Maternal & Infant Health Advocacy: Skills Building for Professionals and Providers



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia

OUR MISSION

To improve maternal and infant health in Georgia through advocacy, education and access to vital resources.



Promoting sound policy solutions to address maternal and infant health disparities in Georgia.





**HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia



State Legislature 101

Makeup of Georgia General Assembly



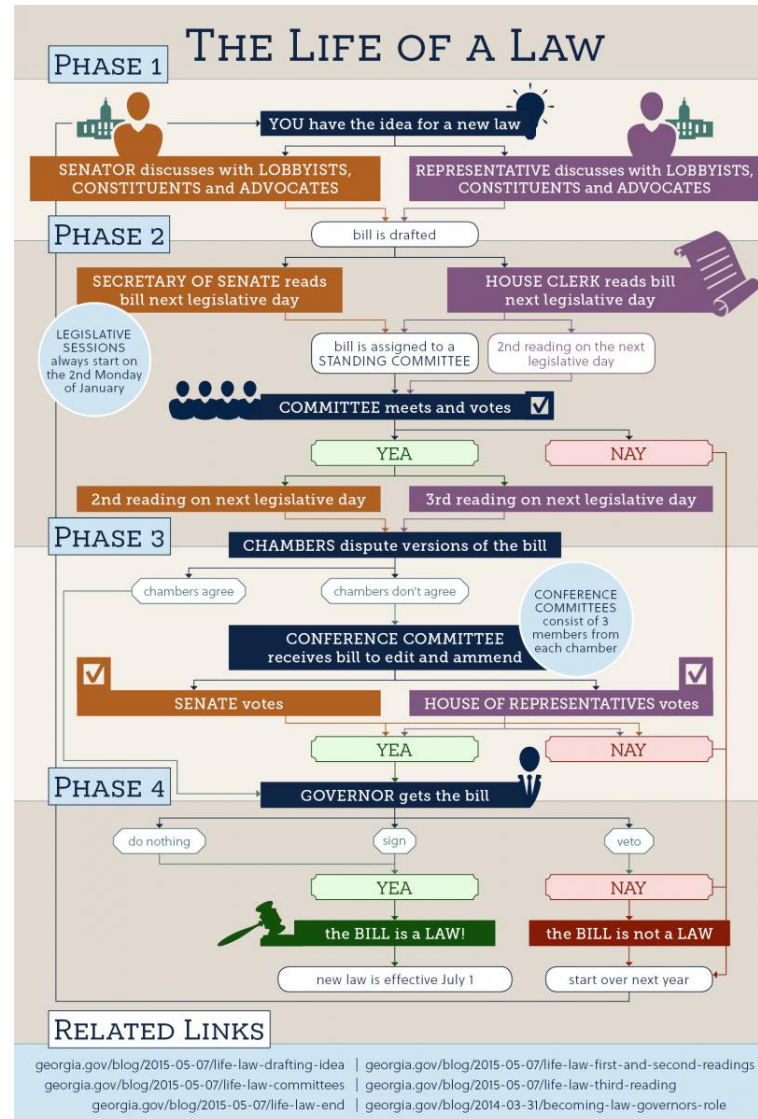
State	State Rank	Senate			Total Women/ Total Senate		House			Total Women/ Total House		Total Women/ Total Legis.		%Women Overall
		D	R	I**	D	R	I**	D	R	I**	D	R		
GA	23	11	2	-	13/ 56	32	18	-	50/ 180	63/ 236	26.7			

56 Senators

180 House Reps

The Overall Process: Idea to Law

Don't Forget Rules!
This committee oversees the flow of legislation from passage in committee and making the determination of what bills should be debated and voted on the House floor. Also included in that task is the approval of guests who are invited into the chambers of the House of Representatives to be recognized.



Georgia Legislators with MCH Background:

- **Senator Dean Burke** (OBGYN)
- **Senator Sally Harrell** (former ED of HMHBGA)
- **Senator Nikema Williams** (former VP of Public Policy for Planned Parenthood Southeast)
- **Representative Debbie Buckner** (former director of community benefit at Columbus Regional Healthcare System, having previously worked for Doctors Hospital as the director of community relations)
- **Representative Park Cannon** (worked at Feminist Women's Health Center)
- **Representative Sharon Cooper** (BS in Child Development, MA in Education, MS in Nursing; served on former Miss Lady Mary Perdue's Advisory Committee on Foster Care)

Georgia Legislators with MCH Background:

- **Representative Viola Davis** (BS in Nursing, 23 years' experience as a critical care nurse/administrator/instructor)
- **Representative Katie Dempsey** (named Child Advocate of the Year by the Rome/Floyd County Commission on Children and Youth; degree in Early Childhood Education)
- **Representative Shelly Hutchinson** (social work/child welfare)
- **Representative Erica Thomas** (founded non-profit to give a voice to foster children) Representative
- **Mary Frances Williams** (social worker, former Director of Advocacy at Families First, received Carolyn Wetzel Advocacy Award from HMHBGA in 2009 and the MCH Community Service Award from GPHA in 2009)

Find YOUR Representatives



HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES

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Select a state

Discover Politics In Your State



Track bills, review upcoming legislation, and see how your local representatives are voting in your state.

Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut

Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois

Find Your Legislators



Enter Address

Search

Dig In To Our Data & APIs

<https://openstates.org/>

Georgia General Assembly

House of Representatives

State Senate

Legislation

Joint Offices

HB ▾ Search

Advanced Search

Georgia Government

Georgia Code

Georgia Online

State Agencies

Live Broadcasts

Both Chambers

House Chamber

Senate Chamber

Room 341

GPB Lawmakers

Intern Program

Open RFPs

Special Councils

Welcome to the Georgia General Assembly!

A form of representative government has existed in Georgia since January 1751. Its modern embodiment, known as the Georgia General Assembly, is one of the largest state legislatures in the nation. The General Assembly consists of two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The General Assembly has operated continuously since 1777, when Georgia became one of the thirteen original states and revoked its status as a colony of Great Britain. Since the General Assembly is the legislative body for the state, the location of its meetings has moved along with each move of the state capitol. In its earliest days the legislature met first in Savannah, and subsequently in Augusta, Louisville, and Milledgeville. In 1868 the capitol—and the assembly—settled permanently in Atlanta. Today the General Assembly meets in the state capitol, an impressive limestone and marble building with a distinctive gold dome and granite foundation. Each chamber is housed in a separate wing.

Every two years, Georgia voters elect members of the legislature. These elections occur in even-numbered years (e.g., 2008, 2010, 2012). The qualifications for holding office in both houses, as well as the size of both chambers, are established in the Georgia state constitution. [The New Georgia Encyclopedia](#)



Notes From The House

[2019 House Committees.](#)

Notes From The Senate

Prefiling for the 2020 Legislative Session begins November 15, 2019.



Senate Committees List

- ★ Administrative Affairs
- ★ Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
- ★ Appropriations
- ★ Assignments
- ★ Banking and Financial Institutions
- ★ Economic Development and Tourism
- ★ Education and Youth
- ★ Ethics
- ★ Finance
- ★ Government Oversight
- ★ Health and Human Services
- ★ Higher Education
- ★ Insurance and Labor
- ★ Interstate Cooperation
- ★ Judiciary
- ★ MARTOC
- ★ Natural Resources and the Environment
- ★ Public Safety
- ★ Reapportionment and Redistricting
- ★ Regulated Industries and Utilities
- ★ Retirement
- ★ Rules
- ★ Science and Technology
- ★ Special Judiciary
- ★ State and Local Governmental Operations
- ★ State Institutions and Property
- ★ Transportation
- ★ Urban Affairs
- ★ Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security

Session

2019-2020 Regular Session ▼

House Committees List

Session

2019-2020 Regular Session ▼

- ★ Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
- ★ Appropriations
- ★ Banks & Banking
- ★ Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight
- ★ Code Revision
- ★ Defense & Veterans Affairs
- ★ Economic Development & Tourism
- ★ Education
- ★ Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications
- ★ Ethics
- ★ Game, Fish & Parks
- ★ Governmental Affairs
- ★ Health & Human Services
- ★ Higher Education
- ★ Human Relations & Aging
- ★ Industry and Labor
- ★ Information and Audits
- ★ Insurance
- ★ Interstate Cooperation
- ★ Intragovernmental Coordination
- Judiciary
- Judiciary Non-Civil
- Juvenile Justice
- Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment
- MARTOC
- Motor Vehicles
- Natural Resources & Environment
- Public Safety and Homeland Security
- Regulated Industries
- ★ Retirement
- ★ Rules
- ★ Science and Technology
- ★ Small Business Development
- ★ Special Committee On Access to Quality Health Care
- ★ Special Rules
- ★ State Planning & Community Affairs
- ★ State Properties
- ★ Transportation
- ★ Ways & Means

HHS House Committee

Committee Members

Cooper, Sharon
Newton, Mark
Rynders, Ed
Barr, Timothy
Bennett, Karen
Beverly, James
Cheokas, Mike
Dempsey, Katie M.
Douglas, Demetrius
Drenner, Karla
Frye, Spencer
Gaines, Houston
Gordon, J. Craig
Hatchett, Matt
Hawkins, Lee
Henson, Michele
Hogan, Don
Howard, Henry "Wayne"
Hutchinson, Shelly
Jasperse, Rick
Jones, Sheila
Kelley, Trey
LaHood, John
Lott, Jodi
Mathiak, Karen
Mitchell, Billy
Parsons, Don
Petrea, Jesse
Pruett, Jimmy
Schofield, Kim
Sharper, Dexter
Silcox, Deborah
Stephens, Mickey
Stephenson, Pam
Tankersley, Jan

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary - (Until 09/05/2019)
Member
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Member

Session

2019-2020 Regular Session ▼



Chairman Cooper

[Assigned Legislation](#)

[Archives](#)

Contact Information

436 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: (404) 656-5069

Staff:

[Michael Polacek - Budget and Policy Analyst](#)

[Lynn McKenzie - Administrative Assistant](#)

HHS Senate Committee

Senate Health and Human Services

Committee Members

Watson, Ben	Chairman
Burke, Dean	Vice Chairman
Kirk, Greg	Secretary
Butler, Gloria S.	Member
Cowsert, Bill	Member
Dolezal, Greg	Member
Henson, Steve	Member
Hufstetler, Chuck	Member
Jackson, Lester G.	Member
Kirkpatrick, Kay	Member
Ligon, Jr., William T.	Member
Orrock, Nan	Member
Unterman, Renee S	Member
Walker, III, Larry	Member



Sponsored Legislation

Capitol Office

320-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
Office: (404) 656-7880

Legislative Assistant

Phyllis Williams

District Information

1326 Eisenhower Drive #2
Savannah, GA 31406
Office: (912) 527-5100

Email

Email Senator

HHS Senate - Sub Committees

Subcommittees:

Healthcare Delivery & Access

Burke, Dean
Hufstetler, Chuck
Kirkpatrick, Kay
Orrock, Nan
Unterman, Renee S
Watson, Ben

Patient/Insurance Issues

Dolezal, Greg
Hufstetler, Chuck
Jackson, Lester G.
Kirkpatrick, Kay
Walker, III, Larry
Watson, Ben

Pharmacology

Burke, Dean
Dolezal, Greg
Henson, Steve
Hufstetler, Chuck
Jackson, Lester G.
Kirkpatrick, Kay

Scope of Practice

Burke, Dean
Butler, Gloria S.
Hufstetler, Chuck
Kirkpatrick, Kay
Orrock, Nan
Watson, Ben

Technology and Education

Cowsert, Bill
Dolezal, Greg
Henson, Steve
Kirk, Greg
Kirkpatrick, Kay
Ligon, Jr., William T.

HHS Senate - Appropriations



Chairman
Sen. Jack Hill
(R- Reidsville)



Vice Chair
Sen. Blake Tillery
(R- Vidalia)

FAST FACTS

- The proposed FY2020 budget is \$27.6 billion
- This budget proposal includes a 2% raise for all state employees that would cost \$120 million
- Capital Outlay Projects in General Obligation bonds totaling over a billion for infrastructure and equipment improvements in the state
- Appropriations has 11 subcommittees and is the largest standing committee



Georgia Senate
Press Office
#GaAppropCmte

Information Source:
www.senate.ga.gov
GA Senate Budget & Evaluation Office

Appropriations Committee: Community Health Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair: Senator Dean Burke

SBEO Analyst: Elton Davis

Subcommittee Members:

- Senator Renee Unterman (Vice-chair)
- Senator John Albers
- Senator Nan Orrock
- Senator Valencia Seay
- Senator Ben Watson

State Agencies Included:

- Department of Community Health
 - Georgia Composite Medical Board
 - Georgia Board for Physician Workforce
 - Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency
- Attached to the Department of Administrative Services:
 - Certificate of Need Appeal Panel

HHS House - Appropriations

Committee Members

England, Terry
Pirkle, Clay
Blackmon, Shaw
Dempsey, Katie M.
Dickey, Robert
Houston, Penny
Knight, David
Parrish, Butch
Watson, Sam
Welch, Andrew J.
Rynders, Ed
Carson, John
Harrell, Brett

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Chairman of Subcommittee
Chairman of Subcommittee
Chairman of Subcommittee
Chairman of Subcommittee
Chairman of Subcommittee
Chairman of Subcommittee
Chairman of Subcommittee
Chairman of Subcommittee
Secretary - (Until 09/05/2019)
Ex-Officio
Ex-Officio



Chairman England

Assigned Legislation

Archives

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Sheila Raney - Administrative Assistant

Health

Parrish, Butch
Taylor, Darlene K.
Dollar, Matt
Gardner, Pat
Hawkins, Lee
Hugley, Carolyn
Petrea, Jesse
Stephens, Ron

Chairman of Subcommittee
Vice-Chairman of Subcommittee
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member

When Communicating With Legislators...

- Research legislators ahead of time
- Bring up any personal connections
- Be courteous and solution-oriented
- Ensure partners use similar talking points
- Use 1-3 data points, gather data specific to Georgia or by legislative district, and incorporate visuals (graphs and maps)
- Include narratives and stories to make the problem personal and urgent
- Frame your message appropriately



Source: Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia

Let's Try It

6 Committee Members

1 Chair

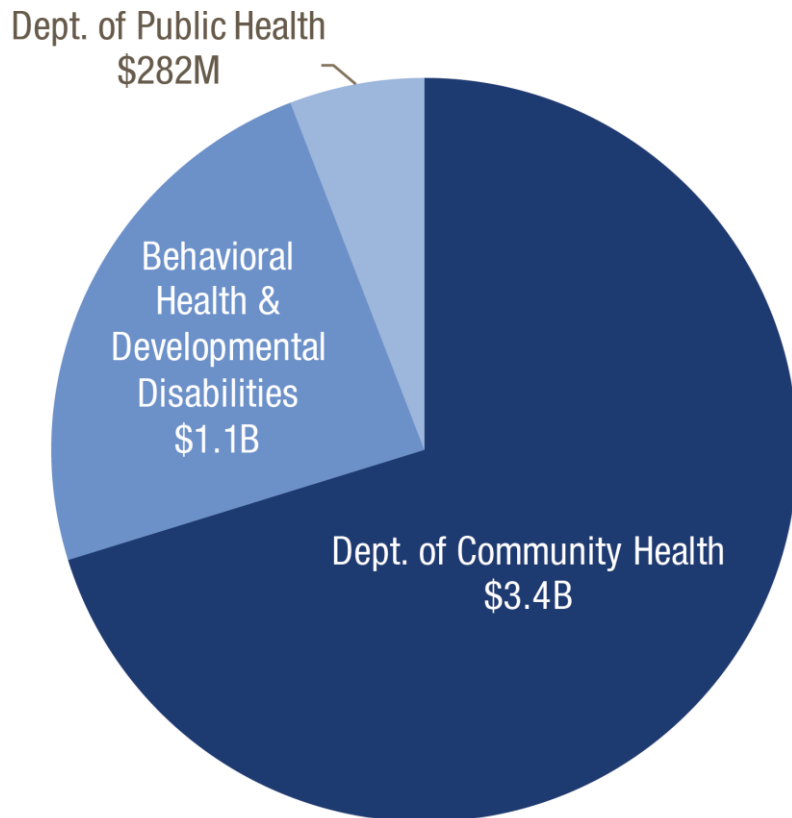
+ Lobbyists & Community Members

RURAL vs. URBAN

Do Not Neglect the Budget!

Health Spending by Agency

\$4.8 billion in 2019

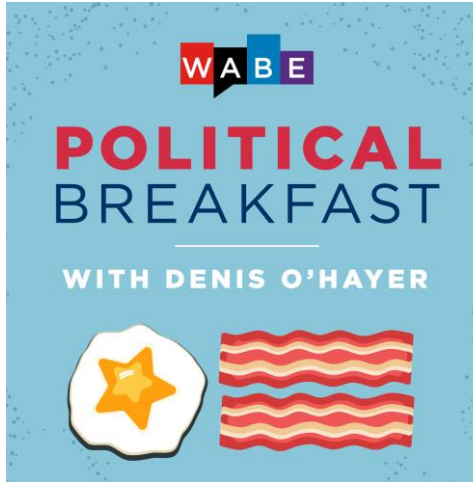


- Supplemental Budget (current year) reviewed in January.
- Next FY Budget reviewed and decided throughout the session. Initial requests made at Appropriation Sub-Committee hearings early in session.
- See State Budget Primer from our friends at Georgia Budget & Policy Institute: <https://gbpi.org/2018/georgia-budget-primer-2019/>

Online Updates:

- HMHBGA *Keeping Current @ the Capitol* (weekly during session): <http://hmhbga.org/newsletter-sign-up/>
- Nelson Mullins – Gold Dome Reports: https://www.nelsonmullins.com/idea_exchange/alerts/gold_dome
- Georgians for a Healthy Future Weekly Session Bulletin: www.healthyfuturega.org
- Georgia Nurses Association (& other prof. orgs): <https://georgianurses.nursingnetwork.com/page/75321-gna-legislative-updates>
- AJC Political Insider: <https://www.ajc.com/news/politics-blog/>
- Todd Rehm’s Political Pundit: <https://gapundit.com/>
- GeorgiaPol Blog: <https://www.georgiapol.com>

Additional Resources – Stay in the Loop!



Radio & Podcasts – GA Politics:

- GPB's Political Rewind:
<https://www.gpbnews.org/programs/political-rewind>
- WABE's Political Breakfast:
<https://www.wabe.org/shows/political-breakfast/>
- PeachPod: <https://medium.com/peachpod>

WHAT'S NEXT? OUR AGENDA:



HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES

Coalition of Georgia

Supporting the extension of pregnancy Medicaid to one year postpartum.

- Approximately 65% of Georgia's pregnancy-related deaths that occur between six weeks and one year postpartum were determined to be preventable

Support legislation to protect pregnant and postpartum women in the workplace and provide appropriate workplace accommodations.

- Only 22% of Georgia women are meeting the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation of breastfeeding for six months.

WHAT'S NEXT? OUR AGENDA:



Ensure rural access to perinatal support and services.

- In 2019, HMHBGA was funded by the Georgia General Assembly to open three satellite perinatal support sites in Meriwether, Randolph, and Wilcox counties.

Support one or more changes in our tobacco laws to deter smoking.

- We support the following: an increase to the State tobacco product excise tax; an equity tax on e-cigarette and tobacco alternative products which would bring them on par with tobacco products; and increasing the minimum age of tobacco purchase to 21.

WHAT'S NEXT? OUR AGENDA:



HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES

Coalition of Georgia

Ensure adequate funding to the Department of Public Health's Maternal & Child Health Section.

- The Maternal & Child Health Section, under the Georgia Department of Public Health, is the State agency responsible for administering vital maternal and child health programs. Some of these programs include newborn screening, family planning, neonatal abstinence syndrome prevention, and resource access. The agency also oversees the Maternal Mortality Review Committee and convenes the Georgia Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

WHAT'S NEXT? OUR AGENDA:



HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES

Coalition of Georgia

Catching up on lost time – MMRC (2014-2017)

- MMRC is on 2015 cases

Continued Implementation of AIM Bundles – GAPQC

- Specifically supporting the new *Diversity & Inclusion AIM Bundle, Hemorrhage, & Severe Hypertension*

Support for Enrollment into Planning For Healthy Babies

Waiver of Eligible Low-Income Women

- Family planning access, preventive care & contraception access to reduce unintended pregnancies, maternal complications & very low-birthweight babies
- Supporting increased access to preventive & postpartum care via Medicaid

WHAT'S NEXT? OUR AGENDA:



Prioritizing M&I Health in CHNA Process

- Of 108 hospitals that are required to conduct a CHNA, only 14 prioritized M&I during their last assessment.

Supporting Professional Development of MCH Workforce

- Especially doulas & childbirth educators in rural areas and high-need areas of metro-Atlanta
- Promoting MCH Workforce to engage in policymaking process via advocacy and local research

Coalition Building

- Convening key stakeholders, advocates, policymakers, families and providers to build and implement our maternal and infant health policy agenda in Georgia.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED!



Step I: Become an HMHB Member!

<http://hmhbga.org/join-us/members/>

Step II: Send an email to your State Senator & Representative thanking them for something they did during the session that you feel was beneficial to family health.

Don't know what to thank them for? Need a template?

Email us at: thecoalition@hmhbga.org

Find your legislators at: <https://openstates.org/>

Step III: Attend an HMHB legislative training. As a member, you can attend the August stakeholder meeting where we plan our agenda.

FEBRUARY – MCH Policy Breakfast 2020



Photos from the 2019 Maternal & Infant Health Policy Breakfast – hosted by HMHB & March of Dimes



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia

Questions?

CONTACT



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia

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www.facebook.com/HMHBGA



[@HMHBgeorgia](https://twitter.com/HMHBgeorgia)



[@HMHBgeorgia](https://www.instagram.com/HMHBgeorgia)

Ex 1: Thank them!



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia

Dear Senator _____,

I am at the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition Advocacy Training in Savannah and they recommended I look up the legislative history for my senator and representative.

I noticed that you _____ in _____. I am very grateful to you for taking up this cause! It's very important to me because _____. I plan to visit the Capitol during the session and will be sure to drop by to introduce myself and thank you in person.

Very best,
(your name)

Ex 2: Just say hi!



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia

Dear Senator _____,

I am at the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition Advocacy Training in Savannah and they recommended I look up my senator and representative.

I live in ____, GA in your district and I am most concerned about _____.

I plan to visit the Capitol during the session and will be sure to drop by to introduce myself and learn your thoughts on this issue and the best path forward.

Very best,
(your name)

HB 345 – Dignity for Incarcerated Women!



HEALTHY MOTHERS,
HEALTHY BABIES

Coalition of Georgia

[HB 345](#) – **Dignity for Incarcerated Women**

(Sharon Cooper, R-Marietta) Would ensure that no restraints of any kind are used on a woman who is in the second or third trimester of pregnancy, in labor, in delivery, or in the immediate postpartum period while incarcerated. Also ensures that no pregnant women would be subject to a squat and cough search or vaginal exam unless prescribed and performed by a licensed healthcare professional.

David Dreyer, D-Atlanta, also filed a dignity for incarcerated women bill – HB 475 – it did not move forward. HMHB strongly supports this legislation and thanks Chairwoman Cooper and Representative Dreyer for their leadership on this important issue.

Key Legislation That Passed



[SB 106](#) – **Patients First Act**

(Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia) Would allow the State to submit a 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver to increase Medicaid coverage to those who are at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Line.

[HR 589](#) – **House Committee on Maternal Mortality**

(Mark Newton, R-Augusta), creates the House Study Committee on Maternal Mortality. The Study Committee will develop strategies and institute systemic changes to decrease and prevent maternal deaths in Georgia.

[HR 707](#) – **Maternal Mental Health Day at the State Capitol**

Recognizes May 1, 2019 as Maternal Mental Health Day at the State Capitol.

[HB 481](#) – **Living Infants Fairness and Equality (LIFE) Act**

(Ed Setzler, R-Acworth) Would place restrictions on accessing abortion care. Legislation would only allow abortions to take place up until there is a detectable heartbeat, which is typically during the first six weeks of pregnancy. Bill makes exceptions for abortions in cases of rape, incest or if the life of the mother is in danger. Current Georgia law allows abortions up to 20 weeks without exception.

Key Legislation That Passed



[HB 321](#) – **Medicaid Financing Program**

(Jodi Lott, R-Evans) would extend the sunset provision of the hospital provider fee for five years. The hospital payment program, which draws down additional federal funding, provides almost \$1 billion annually to the state's Medicaid budget.

[HB 324](#) – **Georgia's Hope Act**

(Micah Gravley, R-Douglasville) Would allow for the legal production, manufacturing, purchase, and sale of THC oil in Georgia. Certain individuals who suffer from a list of qualified disease may currently possess THC oil, but they cannot legally buy THC oil in the state – this bill would allow for that transaction.

[HB 287](#) – **Preceptor Tax Credit**

(Matt Dubnik, R-Gainesville) Would create income tax credit for licensed physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, or physician assistants who provide uncompensated preceptorship training to medical students, advanced practice registered nurse students, or physician assistant students.

Key Legislation That Passed



[HB 290](#) – **PrEP Pilot Program at DPH**

(Sharon Cooper, R-Marietta) Would create a three-year pilot program under the Department of Public Health that would provide pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) drug assistance to people who are at risk of being infected with HIV.

[HB 233](#) – **Pharmacy Anti-Steering and Transparency Act**

(David Knight, R-Griffin) Would address referral practices that may limit or eliminate competitive alternatives in the healthcare services market and that may result in overutilization of health care services. Specifically addresses pharmacies that are an affiliate of the healthcare system where the patient has been prescribed medication to avoid conflicts of interest.

[HB 323](#) – **Insurance: Administration of Claims by Pharmacy Benefit Managers**

(David Knight, R-Griffin) This bill would force pharmacy benefit managers to report to the state Department of Insurance on how much they are receiving in rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers and how much of those rebates they are not passing on to patients.

Key Legislation That Passed



[HB 63](#) – **Step Therapy Protocols**

(Sharon Cooper, R-Marietta) Would require health benefit plans to establish step therapy protocols. Step therapy is an insurance practice which forces patients to try and fail on medications other than the ones their health care providers prescribe.

[HB 187](#) – **Obesity Management Pilot Program**

(Katie Dempsey, R-Rome) provide for a pilot program at the Department of Community Health to provide coverage for the treatment and management of obesity and related conditions.

[HB 217](#) – **Needle Exchange Program**

(Houston Gaines, R-Athens) decriminalizes the act of working or volunteering for a syringe services program, a step towards legalizing the programs. Distributing clean hypodermic syringes and needles to people who use injection drugs (e.g. heroin) helps to prevent the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C.

Key Legislation That Passed



[SB 115](#) – **Telemedicine Practice**

(Renee Unterman, R-Buford) Would allow physicians who are licensed to practice telemedicine in other states to practice telemedicine in Georgia.

[HB 12](#) – **Quality Basic Education Act**

(Rick Williams, R-Milledgeville) Would require every public school to post a sign containing the toll-free telephone number operated by the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services to receive reports of child abuse or neglect.

[HB 26](#) – **Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact**

(Dave Belton, R-Buckhead) Would allow psychologists licensed in participating states to facilitate telehealth and temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across jurisdictional boundaries.

[SB 16](#) – **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act**

(Kay Kirkpatrick, R-East Cobb) Would authorize the Georgia Composite Medical Board to administer the compact in this state.

Key Legislation That Did Not Pass



[HB 577](#) – **Working For Two Act**

(Park Cannon, D-Atlanta) Would require certain accommodations in the workplace for pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions. Accommodations include, but are not limited to: more frequent or longer breaks, time off to recover from childbirth, acquisition or modification of equipment, seating, temporary transfer to a less strenuous or hazardous position, job restructuring, light duty, break time and private, non-bathroom, space for expressing breast milk, assistance with manual labor, or modified work schedules. HMHB strongly supports this legislation and looks forward to facilitating dialogue around the need to improve working conditions for pregnant and postpartum workers in Georgia.

[SB 85](#) – **Early Childcare Scholarship**

(Steve Henson, D-Stone Mountain) Would establish an early childcare scholarship program to be managed by the Department of Education.

Key Legislation That Did Not Pass



[SB 228](#) – **Statute of Limitations on Childhood Sexual Abuse**

(Burt Jones, R-Jackson) would extend the statute of limitations for actions for childhood sexual abuse in certain circumstances.

[HB 8](#) – **Tax Exemption for Menstrual Products**

(Debbie Buckner, D-Junction City) Would exempt sales tax for the sale or use of products with the primary purpose of absorbing or capturing menstrual flow, including but not limited to tampons, menstrual pads and sanitary napkins, panty liners, menstrual sponges, and menstrual cups.

[HB 331](#) – **Protective Orders and Intimate Partner Violence**

(Mandy Ballinger, R-Canton) Would edit current code to allow for those who live together or have lived together, and/or have had a past or current pregnancy to be able to file for an order of protection in the case of family violence.

TOBACCO TAX: No bill was formally introduced to increase the tobacco tax and/or add an excise tax for vaping and tobacco ‘alternative’ products. Georgia still ranks 2nd in nation for lowest tobacco tax.

WHAT ABOUT THE BUDGET?



Maternal Mortality

[HB 31](#) includes \$200,000 for additional nurse abstractors for the Maternal Mortality Review Committee. The General Assembly provided Morehouse School of Medicine \$500,000 for a Center of Excellence on Maternal Mortality in order to advance maternal health in Georgia.

OB/GYN Residency Programs

The House and Senate agreed to provide \$828,042 to fund 54 OB/GYN residency slots, bringing the total number of slots to 104, with 36 slots at Emory University School of Medicine, 20 slots at Medical College of Georgia, 16 slots at Memorial University Medical Center, 16 slots at Morehouse School of Medicine, and 16 slots at Navicent Health Care Macon.

HMHB Perinatal Support Satellites

[HB 31](#) provides \$600,000 for HMHB to establish three perinatal support satellites in Wilcox, Randolph, and Jenkins Counties. HMHB requested for funds to support satellites in six counties, one for each perinatal region. The counties selected have consistently poorer than state average outcomes for infant mortality, low birthweight, prematurity and inadequate prenatal care access and have no prenatal services or education in existence.

WHAT ABOUT THE BUDGET?



Perinatal Health

[HB 31](#) also includes \$152,826 to provide funds for DPH to implement perinatal facility designation pursuant to the passage of HB 909 (2018 session).

Maternal Mental Health

[HB 31](#) includes additional support for maternal health by providing \$1.05 million to screen, refer, and treat maternal depression and related behavioral disorders in rural and underserved areas.

Newborn Health

[HB 31](#) includes \$2,349,649 of funding for newborn screening to include four additional disorders that have been approved by the Georgia Newborn Screening Advisory Committee. The four conditions added are Pompe Disease, MPS 1, X-ALD (adrenoleukodystrophy), and SMA (spinal muscular atrophy).

Lactation Room at Capitol

[HB 31](#) includes \$13,000 to convert space in either the Capitol Building or Coverdell Legislative Building to a lactation room.