



**Do not send this as a group email. Legislators should get an individual thank you email with their legislative aide copied.**

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Senator/Representative/Chairman/Chairwoman \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to say THANK YOU. Because of your hard work, HB 1114 passed with full \$19.7 million funding and \$3.61 million was retained in the budget for several maternal health initiatives. We understand that this legislative session was a difficult one with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the call for budget cuts. Yet, you continued to ensure that postpartum Medicaid extension and maternal health remained priorities and we are grateful for all of your hard work. Due to your efforts, the Department of Community Health is able to submit a waiver to extend the coverage of Pregnancy Medicaid to six months after delivery. Pregnancy Medicaid covers most mothers in Georgia when they give birth. This extension would allow them to receive the care needed to stay healthy during the vulnerable postpartum period and manage physical or mental issues that may have developed during pregnancy.

Additionally, the following maternal health initiatives will continue to address Georgia's maternal mortality crisis and improve the wellbeing of our mothers and babies.

- **Maternal Mortality Prevention:** Implements recommendations from the Maternal Mortality Review Committee including addressing severe hypertension and hemorrhage (leading causes of pregnancy-related death).
- **Maternal Mental Health Program:** Would provide resources, referrals, and psychiatric consultations to providers of pregnant and postpartum women as well as train providers to screen, refer and treat maternal mental health disorders in rural and underserved areas.
- **Center for Maternal Health Equity at Morehouse School of Medicine:** Resource center for training of providers, students on comorbidities contributing to maternal mortality, and implementing best practices/safety bundles. Would also engage and train local communities on maternal mortality prevention.
- **HMHBGA Information & Referral Services:** Call lines provide screenings, program referrals and direct connections to thousands maternal and infant health services across Georgia each year. These lines handled approximately 49,155 outbound and inbound calls in 2019 for Georgia families and maintain a 97% caller satisfaction rating or above.

We greatly appreciate your commitment to improving maternal health across Georgia. Thank you again so much for your work on behalf of moms and babies.