

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: (Assigned by HOD)
(I-25)

Introduced by: Women Physicians Section

Subject: Extending the Medicaid Work Requirement Exemption up to 12 Months
Postpartum

Referred to: Reference Committee (Assigned by HOD)

Whereas, Medicaid work requirements were signed into law under H.R.1 - *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* on July 4, 2025; and

Whereas, our American Medical Association has strong policy opposing Medicaid work requirements, citing evidence that such requirements lead to coverage loss due to administrative burdens and eligibility confusion, disproportionately harming low-income and historically marginalized populations; and

Whereas, the implementation of such requirements remains an opportunity for physicians to mitigate harm and ensure protection for high-risk groups, including postpartum individuals; and

Whereas, women constitute over half of adult Medicaid enrollees;¹ and

Whereas, Medicaid is the largest single payer for pregnancy-related services in the United States, financing over 40% of all births;² and

Whereas, prior to H.R.1, Georgia was the only state to implement Medicaid work requirements, initially exempting postpartum individuals for only 60 days until the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 extended postpartum Medicaid coverage in participating states to 12 months;³ and

Whereas, H.R.1 does not mandate a postpartum exemption beyond the federal minimum of 60 days, despite the recognized medical and mental health needs extending well beyond that timeframe; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the AMA recognize the first 12 months postpartum as a critical window for maternal health monitoring, with elevated risks for conditions such as postpartum depression, cardiovascular disease, and substance use disorders; and

Whereas, requiring women to meet work or reporting requirements during the postpartum period may exacerbate health inequities, increase maternal morbidity and mortality, disrupt continuity of care, and compound socioeconomic stressors, particularly for low-income women and those without access to childcare or paid leave; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association supports a clear, mandatory exemption from Medicaid work requirements for all postpartum women up to 12 months postpartum.

Fiscal Note: (Assigned by HOD)

Received: 08/17/2025

REFERENCES

1. Kaiser Family Foundation. Distribution of Adults Ages 19–64 Enrolled in Medicaid, by Sex. State Health Facts. Published 2023. Accessed July 28, 2025. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/medicaid-distribution-adults-19-64-by-sex/>
2. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Osterman MJK, Driscoll AK, Mathews TJ. *Births: Final Data for 2019*. Natl Vital Stat Rep. 2021;70(2):1–50. Published March 23, 2021. Accessed July 28, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr70/nvsr70-02-508.pdf>
3. Georgia Department of Community Health. Postpartum Extension Demonstration. Georgia Medicaid. Published online. Accessed July 28, 2025. <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/all-programs/postpartum-extension>

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-290.961 Opposition to Medicaid Work Requirements

Our AMA opposes work requirements as a criterion for Medicaid eligibility [Res. 802, I-17; Reaffirmation: A-18]

D-290.979 Medicaid Expansion

1. Our American Medical Association, at the invitation of state medical societies, will work with state and specialty medical societies in advocating at the state level to expand Medicaid eligibility to 133% (138% FPL including the income disregard) of the Federal Poverty Level as authorized by the ACA and will advocate for an increase in Medicaid payments to physicians and improvements and innovations in Medicaid that will reduce administrative burdens and deliver healthcare services more effectively, even as coverage is expanded.
2. Our AMA will:
 - a. continue to advocate strongly for expansion of the Medicaid program to all states and reaffirm existing policies D-290.979, H 290.965 and H-165.823.
 - b. work with interested state medical associations and national medical specialty societies to provide AMA resources on Medicaid expansion and covering the uninsured to health care professionals to inform the public of the importance of expanded health insurance coverage to all. [Res. 809, I-12; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 02, A-19; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 5, I-20; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 3, A-21; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 9, A-21; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 3, I-21; Reaffirmed: Joint CMS/CSAPH Rep. 1, I-21; Appended: Res. 122, A-22]

D-290.974 Extending Medicaid Coverage for One Year Postpartum

Our AMA will work with relevant stakeholders to: (1) support and advocate, at the state and federal levels, for extension of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage to at least 12 months after the end of pregnancy; and (2) expand Medicaid and CHIP eligibility for pregnant and postpartum non-citizen immigrants. [Res. 221, A-19; Modified: Joint CMS/CSAPH Rep. 1, I-21; Modified: Res. 701, I-21]