

ACOG

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND
GYNECOLOGISTS

Chairwoman Kim Moser,
Members of the Committee
Ky General Assembly
House Health and Welfare Committee
702 Capital Ave
Frankfort, KY. 40601

Chairwoman Moser and Committee Members,

The Kentucky Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists wishes to express its support for HB174, an ACT relating to postpartum Medicaid coverage.

Medicaid coverage for new mothers currently ends shortly after delivery. It is essential for the health of a new mother to continue to have access to high quality care throughout this postpartum period, in order to prevent long-term complications and even premature death. For example, our state maternal mortality review committee has determined that substance use disorder is now the leading cause of maternal mortality in Kentucky. Many of these deaths occur well after the traditional six week postpartum checkup, as does much of the nonfatal morbidity associated with substance use disorder. Extending access to postpartum care for a full 12 months after delivery is essential to efforts to prevent maternal deaths, and helping to ensure that a child does not grow up without a mother. Healthy babies require healthy moms. Extension of Medicaid health benefits for a full year after delivery is an excellent investment in the future of our state, as it will help ensure that our new moms, and the youngest new citizens of our Commonwealth, are off to a healthy start.

Thank you for hearing HB174, and for your efforts to improve the health of women in Kentucky. Should any members of the legislature require any additional information regarding this issue, we would be happy to address any questions.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey M. Goldberg, M.D., M.S.

Legislative Advocacy Chair

KY Section

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists