

H.R 5568/S.2846--

Community, Access, Resources, Empowerment (CARE) for Moms Act

Fact Sheet

Introduced by Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]/Sen. Richard J. Durbin [D-IL]

The Community, Access, Resources, Empowerment (CARE) for Moms Act supports the maternal health workforce, promotes access to prenatal and postpartum care, and provides additional resources for mothers and infants.

AWHONN supports CARE for Moms Act because it would provide collaborative grant programs to evaluate the development and sustainability of perinatal programming to combat the rising maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the United States. The CARE For Moms Act also supports the maternal health workforce, promotes access to prenatal and postpartum care, and provides additional resources for mothers and infants.

AWHONN's position as found in the 2024 Legislative and Policy Agenda is to "Support initiatives to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality and improve the health status of pregnant and birthing people, as well as policies designed to increase funding to address racial health disparities, structural and social determinants of health, and resolve health inequities contributing to these issues. Support for legislation and funding to address the effects of systemic racism and environmental factors on maternal health and outcomes, including supporting innovative programs and interventions."

The CARE For Moms Act would provide states support required to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rate in the United States through:

- Establish a State-Based Perinatal Quality Collaborative Grant Program- Multidisciplinary collective that would include perinatal and maternity care providers to work to improve measurable outcomes for maternal and infant health by advancing evidence-informed clinical practices using quality improvement principles.
- Establish Regional Centers of Excellence- award cooperative agreements for the establishment or support of regional centers of excellence addressing implicit bias, cultural competency, and respectful care practices in patient-provider interactions education for the purpose of enhancing and improving how health care professionals are educated in implicit bias and delivering culturally competent health care.
- Support federal efforts to grow and diversify the doula workforce- program to award grants or contracts to schools, or appropriate public or private nonprofit entities, to establish or expand programs to grow and diversify the doula workforce, including through improving the capacity and supply of health care providers.

- Extend Medicaid coverage for postpartum mothers in all 50 states- 12-month continuous coverage of full benefits for pregnant and postpartum individuals under Medicaid and CHIP-
- Establish grants for Rural Obstetric Mobile Units- grants made to States to purchase and equip rural mobile health units for the purpose of providing pre-conception, pregnancy, postpartum, and obstetric emergency services, to train providers including obstetrician-gynecologists, certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, nurses, and midwives to operate and provide obstetric services, and to address access issues, including social determinants of health and wrap-around clinical and community services including nutrition, housing, lactation services, and transportation support and referrals.
- Extending Medicaid and CHIP to Oral Health Coverage to pregnant and postpartum women- a State shall, at a minimum, provide coverage for preventive, diagnostic, periodontal, and restorative care consistent with recommendations for perinatal oral health care and dental care during pregnancy from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
- Extend WIC benefits for postpartum and breastfeeding women for two years.

House Cosponsors:

Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]
 Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]
 Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]
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Senate Cosponsors:

Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]

Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

To cosponsor H.R 5568 - the Community, Access, Resources, Empowerment (CARE) for Moms Act, please contact Ebony Caldwell in Rep. Kelly's office at ebony.caldwell@mail.house.gov.

To cosponsor S. 2846—the Community, Access, Resources, Empowerment (CARE) for Moms Act, please contact Jessica McNiece in Sen. Durbin's office at jessica_mcniece@durbin.senate.gov.