



SPONSOR: Sen. Townsend & Sen. Lockman & Sen. Sokola &  
Rep. K. Johnson & Rep. Minor-Brown & Rep. Bentz  
Sens. Bonini, Brown, Cloutier, Delcollo, Ennis, Hansen,  
Hocker, Lawson, Lopez, McBride, McDowell, Paradee,  
Pettyjohn, Poore, Richardson, Sturgeon, Walsh, Wilson;  
Reps. Baumbach, Bolden, Briggs King, Cooke,  
Dorsey Walker, Griffith, Kowalko, Ramone,  
Michael Smith, Vanderwende, Viola

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

REQUESTING THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE STUDY THE EXTENSION OF  
MEDICAID COVERAGE THROUGH THE FIRST YEAR POSTPARTUM.

1 WHEREAS, under federal law, all states must provide Medicaid coverage for pregnancy-related services to  
2 pregnant women with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level ("FPL") through the end of the month in which a 60-  
3 day period ends following the termination of the pregnancy; and

4 WHEREAS, Delaware has expanded Medicaid coverage which provides full Medicaid coverage for pregnant  
5 women with incomes at or below 212% of the FPL; and

6 WHEREAS, Medicaid was the principal source of payment for 44.4% of deliveries in Delaware in 2018 but  
7 approximately 1/3 of Medicaid-covered women who delivered a baby lost their Medicaid coverage in the 12 months  
8 following the birth; and

9 WHEREAS, insurance is a critical factor in determining women's access to affordable postpartum care; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2012, the most recent year for which surveillance data from the Centers for Disease Control and  
11 Prevention ("CDC") is available, there were approximately 16 pregnancy-related deaths per every 100,000 live births in the  
12 United States; and

13 WHEREAS, the CDC surveillance data indicates that the rate of pregnancy-related deaths varies by race, ethnicity,  
14 and age, with the highest mortality rate evidenced among black women, for whom the rate of pregnancy-related deaths is  
15 consistently 3 to 4 times higher than for white women; and

16 WHEREAS, in May 2019, the CDC released a new maternal mortality report that found that 1 in 3 pregnancy-  
17 related deaths occurred between 1 week through 1 year after delivery; and

18 WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association  
19 have recently called for interventions to reduce pregnancy-related deaths and have identified the expansion of insurance

20 eligibility under Medicaid through the first year postpartum as a key strategy for reducing preventable maternal morbidity  
21 and mortality; and

22 WHEREAS, the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium recently identified extended Medicaid  
23 postpartum coverage as a top priority of the Social Determinants of Health Workgroup.

24 NOW, THEREFORE:

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 150<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
26 Representatives concurring therein, that the State should explore strategies to reduce preventable maternal mortality and to  
27 close the disparity in the maternal mortality rate among black women and women of other races; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance study the extension  
29 Medicaid coverage through the first year postpartum, a key strategy to reduce preventable maternal mortality, and provide a  
30 report summarizing this study to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
31 Chair of the Senate Health & Social Services Committee, the Chair of the House Health & Human Development  
32 Committee, the Governor, the Director and the Librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative Council, and the  
33 Delaware Public Archives by April 1, 2020.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution requests that the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance study the extension of Medicaid coverage through the first year postpartum. Insurance coverage is a critical factor in determining women's access to affordable postpartum care and is a key strategy for reducing preventable maternal mortality and to close the disparity in the maternal mortality rate among black women and women of other races.

Author: Senator Townsend