A NATIONAL OVERVIEW OF TRENDS AND STATE POLICY OPTIONS TO ADDRESS MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY

WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

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NCSL Health Program

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AGENDA

- About NCSL
- NCSL's Maternal and Child Health Fellows
- National Overview of Efforts to Reduce Maternal and Infant Mortality
  - Federal and National Initiatives
  - State Legislative Policy Options and Examples
- Resources

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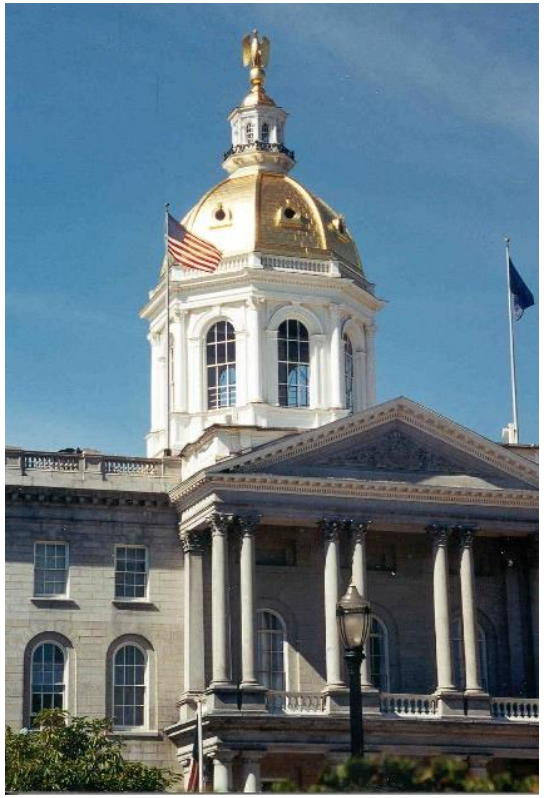
THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

- Bipartisan membership organization
  - All 50 states and the territories
    - 7,383 state legislators
    - All state legislative staff (30,000+)
- Goals:
  - To improve the quality & effectiveness of state legislatures
  - To promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures
  - To ensure states a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system
- Research, education, technical assistance
- Voice of the states



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NCSL'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH FELLOWS PROGRAM

2019 Cohort

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HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA), MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BUREAU PERINATAL AND INFANT HEALTH INITIATIVES

- HRSA Preventive Services
- **Title V MCH Block Grant**
- Healthy Start
- Home Visiting
- Bright Futures
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program
- Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM)
- Safe Infant Sleep Systems Integration (SISSI)
- Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network (CoIIN) to Reduce Infant Mortality
  - Heritable Disorders
  - Newborn Screening

HRSA Maternal & Child Health

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FEDERAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES

STATE LEGISLATIVE EXAMPLES

- Arkansas
- Delaware
- Georgia
- New Jersey
- Maryland
- Texas
- Washington

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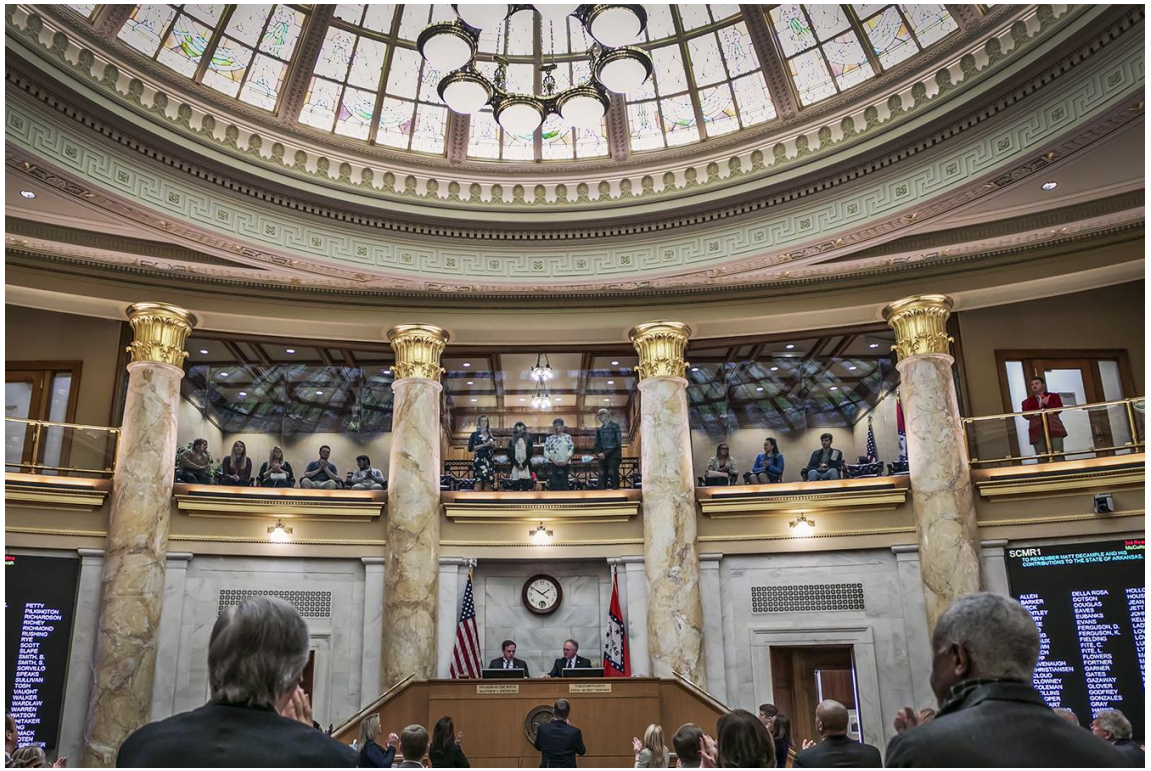
LEGISLATIVE EXAMPLES- ARKANSAS

- AR H 1441 - Establishes a **maternal and perinatal outcomes quality review committee** in the State to improve maternal and perinatal outcomes. Beginning in 2020, the committee will disseminate findings and recommendations to policy makers, healthcare providers, healthcare facilities, and the general public annually.
- AR HB 1440 - Establishes a **maternal mortality review committee** in the state to decrease the amount of maternal deaths in the state.



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LEGISLATIVE EXAMPLES- DELAWARE

- DE SCR 66, **2020** –Requests that the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance **study the extension of Medicaid coverage through the first year postpartum**, relates to insurance coverage being 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.
- **DE Senate Bill 122**, 2019 – This Act **creates the Delaware Perinatal Quality Collaborative to improve pregnancy outcomes for women and newborns** and such issues as obstetrical blood loss management, pregnant women with substance use disorder, infants impacted by neonatal abstinence syndrome, and advancing evidence-based clinical practices and processes through quality care review, audit, and continuous quality improvement.

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LEGISLATIVE EXAMPLES- GEORGIA

- GA HR 589, 2019 - Creates **the House Study Committee on Maternal Mortality**, provides the committee shall be composed of a specified number of members of the House of Representatives, a minimum of a certain number whom shall be African American female legislators, and a certain number of members of the Georgia Maternal Mortality Review Committee to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, provides the Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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LEGISLATIVE EXAMPLES- NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE 2019

- **A5509** – Requires health benefits and Medicaid coverage for breastfeeding support.
- **S3159** - Requires Medicaid coverage for pasteurized donated human breast milk under certain circumstances.
- **S484** - Revises Newborn Screening program in the Department of Health.
- **S1784** – Provides Medicaid coverage for doula care.
- **S3365** – Establishes perinatal episode of care pilot program in Medicaid.
- **S2133** - Mandates health benefits coverage for fertility preservation services under certain health insurance plans.
- **S3378** – Prohibits health benefits coverage for certain non-medically indicated early elective deliveries under Medicaid program, SHBP, and SEHBP.
- **S3406** – Codifies current practice regarding completion of Perinatal Risk Assessment form by certain Medicaid health care providers.

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LEGISLATIVE EXAMPLES- MARYLAND

- MD S 912, 2018. Creates the Infant Care Coordination Services Grant Program. Prioritizes funds from the Children's Cabinet for applications from counties or municipalities that have high rates of infant mortality, high rates of preterm birth and a high number of births to women enrolled in Medicaid.

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LEGISLATIVE EXAMPLES- TEXAS

- TX H 25, 2019 - **Medicaid Medical Transportation Program.** Requires the maternal mortality and morbidity task force to establish a pilot program for providing medical transportation program services to pregnant women and new mothers.

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ENACTED LEGISLATION IN 2020

Maternal Mortality

- Alabama HR 20 (Adopted 2/20/20) – Recognizes Go Red for Women Day. Cites heart disease as the leading cause of maternal death.
- California ACR 145 (Adopted 2/20/20) – Proclaims a specified date as Maternal Health Awareness Day, to draw attention to the efforts that have improved maternal health in the state and to highlight the need for continued improvement of maternal health for all women. Makes multiple references to maternal mental health.
- Hawaii SR 11 (Adopted 3/3/20) – Requests that the Department of Human Services provide an estimate of the budget appropriation and legislative action necessary to fund an expansion of Med-Quest coverage to all post-partum women for a period of twelve months following childbirth.
- Kentucky HR 73 (Adopted 2/27/20) – Designates January 23rd of each year as Maternal Health Awareness Day in Kentucky.

Infant and Maternal Mortality

- Indiana SR 41 (Adopted 2/24/20) – Recognizes February 25, 2020 as Doula Day at the Statehouse. References doulas ability to improve health outcomes for mothers and their babies.

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ADDITIONAL STATE POLICY EFFORTS, OPTIONS, AND TRENDS

- Providing baby boxes and safe sleep educational programs
- Updating newborn screening panels
- Extending or enhancing coverage for women on Medicaid beyond 60 days postpartum
- Study committees on infant and maternal mortality disparities, specifically for African American or Native American infants and mothers
- Creating, enhancing, or supporting Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs)
- Co-locating services and supports for mother and infant when treating for substance use disorder

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Resources

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- NCSL Policy Brief, Preventing Infant and Maternal Mortality: State Policy Options
- NCSL Legisbrief, State Newborn Health Screening Policies
- NCSL Legislative Database, Maternal and Child Health Database
- NCSL Legislative Database, Injury Prevention Database

Additional Resources

- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
- CDC Infant Mortality Resources and Initiatives
- The Maternal and Child Health Bureau- Resources and Initiatives

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Thank you!

Contact Information

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