

## **CMS approves Georgia's plan to extend Medicaid benefits for new mothers – Georgia Academy Applauds this Legislative Priority**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services approved Georgia's request to extend state Medicaid benefits by four months for new mothers. Now, new moms with incomes up to 220 percent of the federal poverty level will be covered for six months, instead of the current 60 days.

The state initially filed its waiver request with CMS in December 2020. Now that it's approved, Georgia becomes just one of three states to lengthen Medicaid coverage for postpartum women. The Georgia Academy supported this state legislation, sponsored by State Representative Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta) in the 2020 legislative session.

Georgia lawmakers and public health leaders have long been concerned about the state's maternal mortality rate. Maternal mortality is defined by the CDC as the death of a woman while she is pregnant or within one year of the end of the pregnancy from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management. These death rates are unusually high in Georgia.

Georgia's Medicaid agency says it aims to decrease maternal mortality rates by 3 percent by the end of 2023. For more information on the State's maternal mortality reporting – click here: <https://dph.georgia.gov/maternal-mortality> (<https://tinyurl.com/3kaaw9s2>)