

Wisconsin American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists: Statement on passage of postpartum Medicaid coverage extension

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The following statement is attributable to the Wisconsin Section of the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG):

“We are thrilled that the Wisconsin State Assembly has passed legislation to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage through 12 months. ACOG Wisconsin has long advocated in support of this policy because we know that having access to health care for a full year postpartum makes a real difference in patient outcomes, reduces maternal morbidity, and saves lives. Data clearly show that preventable maternal deaths happen in the postpartum period after traditional Medicaid coverage lapses at 60 days and patients do not have access to the care they need. Extending coverage for one full year postpartum will help us ensure that women can get safe, evidence-based care to support their health and families.

“As ob-gyns, we have cared for countless postpartum patients, supporting them through pregnancy-related complications such as high blood pressure, mental health issues, substance use disorder, diabetes, and so much more. Postpartum Medicaid coverage is absolutely essential in our efforts to combat the maternal mortality crisis and to support the health and well-being of Wisconsin mothers and families.

“We sincerely thank the Wisconsin Legislature for passing this critically important legislation, especially bill authors Representative Pat Snyder and Senator Jesse James, and those who advocated for its passage, including our ob-gyn and

clinician colleagues who are dedicated to protecting access to obstetric and gynecologic health care. We look forward to seeing this signed into law by Governor Evers.”