



AABC
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF
BIRTH CENTERS

Advocating and Preparing for Legislative Initiatives Expanding Access to the Midwifery-led Model

Patrick Cooney, BS - The Federal Group, Inc.

Debbie Jessup, PhD, CNM, FACNM – Congresswoman Roybal-Allard

Jack DiMatteo, MPP - Congresswoman Underwood

Jill Alliman, DNP, CNM, FACNM – AABC Government Affairs Chair (mod)



AABC
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF
BIRTH CENTERS

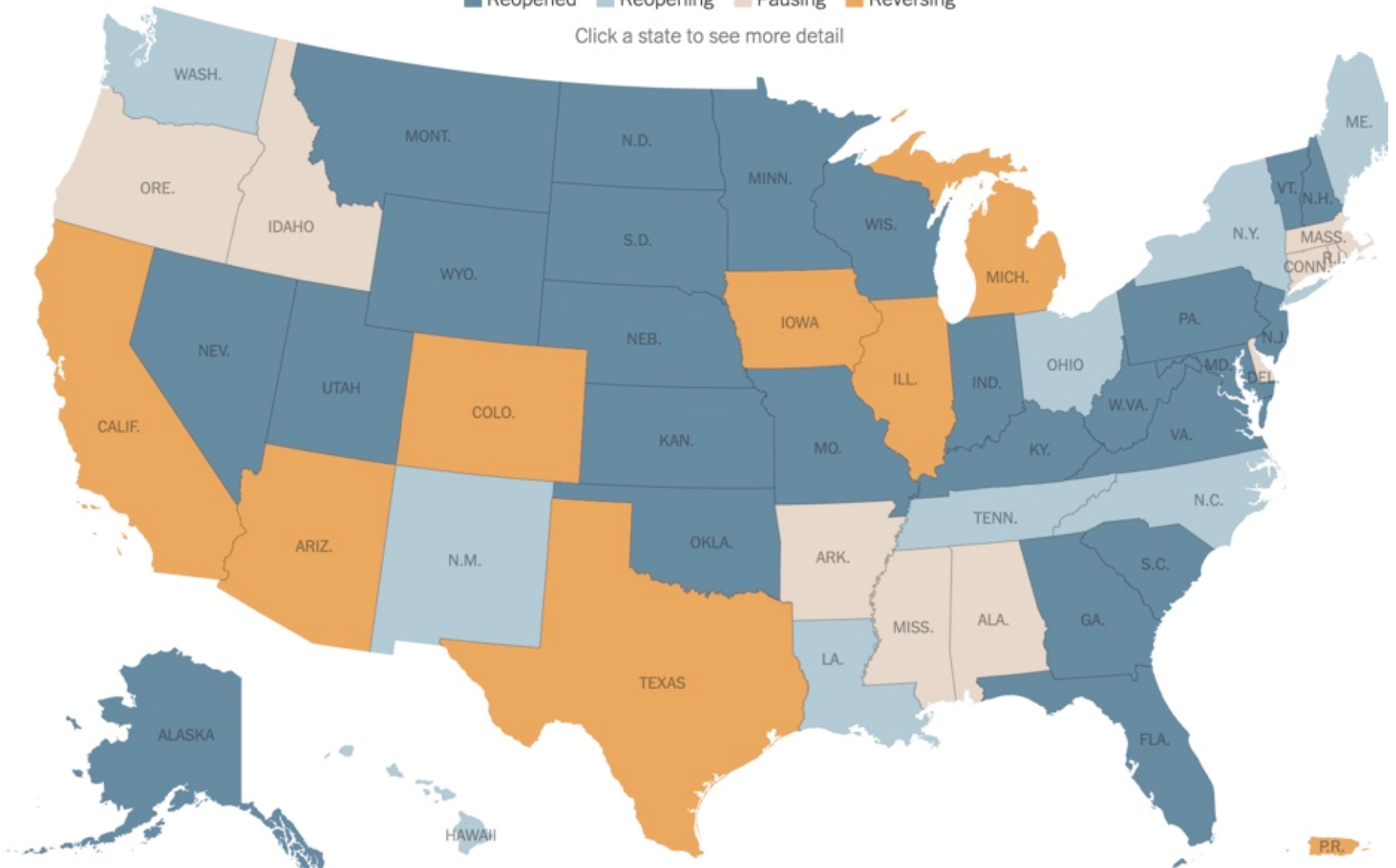
AABC Federal Legislative Update

Patrick Cooney, President, The Federal Group, Inc.



■ Reopened ■ Reopening ■ Pausing ■ Reversing

Click a state to see more detail



Coronavirus Relief Efforts in Congress

First package: Preparedness and Response Supplemental

- The initial \$8.3 billion emergency spending package ([HR 6074](#)) passed the House, 415-2, on March 4. The Senate cleared it March 5 by a 96-1 vote and President Donald Trump signed it March 6. It became [PL 116-123](#). Most of the money, \$6.5 billion, went to HHS, with about \$2.2 billion for the CDC.

Second package: Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- This second measure ([HR 6201](#)) passed the House, 363-40, on March 14. A package of technical "fixes" was adopted March 16. The Senate cleared the measure, 90-8, on March 18 and President Donald Trump signed it later that day. It became [PL 116-127](#). It provides \$1 billion in grants to help states with unemployment insurance programs during the crisis; funds for free testing; funds for food programs; and additional federal funds for Medicaid.

Coronavirus Relief Efforts in Congress

Third package: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- The sprawling \$2.3 trillion measure ([HR 748](#)) was signed by the president March 27, hours after it passed the House by voice vote. The Senate passed it 96-0 on March 25. It became [PL 116-136](#). The law includes almost \$910 billion to aid businesses; about \$590 billion in tax breaks; roughly \$480 billion related to health care; and about \$300 billion for unemployment insurance, nutrition and housing.

Fourth package: Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

- The bill ([HR 266](#)) passed the Senate by voice vote April 21 and the House by a 388-5 vote April 23. It became [PL 116-139](#) after it was signed April 24. Among its provisions: \$310 billion for the PPP, \$50 billion for other SBA loans, \$10 billion for disaster grants, \$75 billion for hospitals/providers and \$25 billion for testing.

Coronavirus Relief Efforts in Congress

Additional House bill: Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act

- The estimated \$3 trillion bill ([HR 6800](#)) passed the House 208-199 on May 15. The president threatened to veto it and Senate Republicans criticized its scope and timing. It would provide aid to state and local governments, impacted workers, hospitals, schools and universities and the U.S. Postal Service. It would also provide funds for testing and to prepare for the November elections.

Additional Senate package: Coronavirus Response Additional Supplemental Appropriations Act and other bills

- The roughly \$1 trillion coronavirus aid package was unveiled on July 27 and consists of several standalone bills (S 4317, S 4318, S 4319, S 4320, S 4321, S 4322, S 4323, S 4324). Among the provisions: another round of tax rebate checks; expanded employment tax credits; a less generous extension of unemployment benefits than current law; \$306 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies; liability protection for employers; and a second round of Paycheck Protection Program loans.



Coronavirus Relief Efforts in Congress

Areas of Interest for Birth Centers

- Medicaid Provider Fund
- Small Business Administration – Paycheck Protection Program
- Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
- Access to Personal Protective Equipment
- Testing for COVID-19
- Vaccine Development

Maternal Health in Congress

Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act – Rep. Engel (D-NY)/Senator Stabenow (D-MI)

(H.R. 1551, S.1960)

- Directs U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work with relevant providers, specialty organizations, consumer organizations and other stakeholders to identify and publish a core set of maternity care quality measures for childbearing women and newborns;
- Directs states to annually report on their use of these measures;
- Awards grants to create electronic versions of existing measures;
- Directs Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) to develop and use adaptations of the generic clinician, facility and health plan Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems Maternity surveys for childbearing women and newborns;
- Authorizes the expansion or development of perinatal quality collaboratives.



Maternal Health in Congress

Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA's) Act – Rep. Kelly (D-IL), Senator Durbin (D-IL)

(H.R. 1897, S. 916)

- Extends Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage to 1 year postpartum for women who have pregnancy- related Medicaid or CHIP coverage;
- Authorizes funding to establish or support Regional Centers of Excellence for implicit bias and cultural competency education;
- Standardizes maternal mortality and morbidity data collection across states;
- Empowers the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide technical guidance and publish best practices for maternal mortality and morbidity prevention;
- Authorizes funding for the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health grant program — a national data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative to implement obstetric emergency protocols and best practices to save mothers' lives;
- Awards grants to perinatal quality collaboratives for quality improvement activities;
- Expands Medicaid and CHIP coverage of childbearing women to include oral health;
- Prohibits imposing new restrictions on Medicaid and CHIP access to childbearing women.



Maternal Health in Congress

Midwives for Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services (Midwives for MOMS) Act of 2019 – Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-CA)

(H.R. 3849)

Establishes a grant program through the Title VII Health Professional Training Programs for midwifery education at accredited midwifery schools or programs;

- Establishes a grant program through the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs for midwifery education at accredited nurse-midwifery schools or programs;
- For both new grant programs, awards grants to 1) support students in accredited midwifery schools or programs, 2) establish or expand accredited midwifery schools or programs, and 3) increase the number of qualified preceptors in accredited midwifery schools or programs;
- For both new programs, prioritizes awarding grants to programs that can increase racial and ethnic diversity in midwifery education and educate students who plan to practice in health professional shortage areas.



Maternal Health in Congress

Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2019 – Rep. Engel (D-NY)

(H.R. 4995)

- Directs various units within HHS to improve rural maternal health and care data; Awards grants to establish rural obstetric networks for quality improvement and innovation; Awards grants for telehealth networks and resource centers; Awards grants to train maternal care providers to work in rural; Requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on maternal care in rural areas.
- Awards grants to identify, develop, or disseminate best practices to improve maternal health care quality and outcomes, and infant health outcomes;
- Authorizes funding to award grants to health professional training programs to provide training to reduce and prevent discrimination in the provision of maternal health care services;
- Requires HHS to conduct a study and make recommendations to health professional training programs on best training practices to reduce and prevent discrimination in providing maternal health care services;
- Requires CDC to provide grants to support perinatal quality collaboratives in quality improvement activities to improve care and outcomes for childbearing women and their infants;
- Awards grants to states, tribes, and tribal organizations to establish or operate programs to deliver integrated health care services to childbearing women to optimize their health and that of their infants.



Maternal Health in Congress

Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2020 – Rep. Underwood (D-IL)/Senator Harris (D-CA) (H.R. 6132, S. 3424)

- Creates a task force that includes relevant HHS agencies, relevant federal departments, and essential community stakeholders to develop strategies to address social determinants of health that influence maternal health outcomes;
- Authorizes National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to examine and analyze the impact of water and air quality, pollution levels, and exposure to extreme temperatures on maternal and infant health outcomes, with a particular focus on women of color;
- Creates a grant program to support state, local, and Tribal health departments to address the social determinants of health needs of pregnant and postpartum women in their communities.
- Creates a grant program to support community-based organizations committed to preventing adverse maternal health outcomes for Black women through such efforts as perinatal health worker training, doula services, and investment in programs and services to alleviate adverse social risk;
- Creates a grant program to implement training to address bias, racism, and discrimination in maternity care settings that impact Black women;
- Authorizes a Government Accountability Office report to evaluate which hospitals have implemented Respectful Maternity Care Compliance Offices and assess the impact of the office have on maternal health outcomes.



Maternal Health in Congress

Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2020 – Rep. Underwood (D-IL)/Senator Harris (D-CA)

- Provides funds to VA facilities for Maternity Care Coordination;
- Requires states to list the veteran status of a mother in fetal death records and maternal mortality review committee (MMRC) reviews;
- Authorizes a study on the scope of the maternal health crisis among women veterans, with a focus on women of color veterans.

Requires HHS Secretary to provide guidance to states to educate providers and managed care entities about models for respectful maternity care;

- Requires HHS Secretary to provide guidance to states to encourage health care entities to recruit and retain a racially and ethnically diverse maternity care workforce with training in implicit and explicit bias and anti-racism;



Maternal Health in Congress

Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2020 – Rep. Underwood (D-IL)/Senator Harris (D-CA)

- Requires HHS Secretary to provide guidance to states in encouraging diverse workforce composition, including midwives, doulas, lactation consultants, peer supporters, community health workers and navigators;
- Requires NIH Director to prepare a study on best practices for culturally congruent maternity care;
- Creates a grant program to start or expand schools or programs to educate and train individuals seeking appropriate licensing or certification, such as physician assistants, doulas, community health workers, peer supporters, lactation consultants, nutritionists, social workers, home visitors, and navigators, giving preference to students from communities experiencing high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity;
- Creates a grant program to provide funding to accredited nursing schools to grow and diversify the perinatal nursing workforce;
- Supports comprehensive examination for the grant program, with a focus on the program's impact on diversifying the workforce nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists in areas with poor maternal health outcomes and in health professional shortage areas;
- Requires the Government Accountability Office to report on barriers that prevent marginalized individuals— specifically women of color and low-income women – from pursuing careers as maternity care providers.



Maternal Health in Congress

- **Birth Access Benefitting Improved Essential Facility Services (BABIES) Act – Rep. Clark (D-MA)**
- **(H.R. 5189)**
- Creates a Medicaid demonstration program to identify ways to improve access, quality, and scope of freestanding birth center services for women with low-risk pregnancies in underserved areas. This includes publishing criteria for participation, developing guidance for a potential payment evaluation, awarding planning grants, selecting up to 6 states, and writing a report to Congress;
- Identifies sustainable payment models for birth center care.