
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING 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.

1 WHEREAS, women who are ineligible for post-partum health
2 coverage struggle to get necessary care during the fourth
3 trimester, the twelve weeks following childbirth during which
4 time a woman recovers from birth and transitions to nurture and
5 care for her infant; and

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7 WHEREAS, the fourth trimester is a critical time as women
8 are more likely to die of pregnancy-related conditions during
9 this time than during pregnancy or childbirth; and

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11 WHEREAS, nationwide, drug overdoses, suicides and
12 pregnancy-related chronic illnesses, including diabetes, heart
13 disease, and high blood pressure, contribute to a rise in deaths
14 among women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the first twelve
15 months after childbirth; and

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17 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease
18 Control and Prevention, adequate medical attention could prevent
19 three out of five post-partum deaths; and

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21 WHEREAS, Medicaid pregnancy coverage, which pays for nearly
22 half of all births in the United States, expires sixty days
23 after childbirth, leaving many women without health insurance
24 during this vulnerable time; and

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26 WHEREAS, although women may reapply as a parent after this
27 sixty-day time period, because the income limit for parents is



1 lower, many women are unable to qualify for coverage as a
2 parent; and

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4 WHEREAS, policymakers in at least six states, including
5 California, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, South Carolina, and
6 Tennessee, are working to extend Medicaid coverage to a full
7 year after childbirth; and

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9 WHEREAS, health agencies in Georgia, Texas, Utah, and
10 Washington recommend similar efforts; and

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12 WHEREAS, according to the Commonwealth Fund, a health care
13 advocacy group, maternal mortality rates, including deaths
14 during and up to one year after pregnancy, are higher in the
15 United States than in other developed nations; and

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17 WHEREAS, while pregnancy-related death rates have dropped
18 worldwide over the past thirty years, these rates have more than
19 doubled in the United States; and

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21 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease
22 Control and Prevention, the number of deaths per one hundred
23 thousand live births in the United States has risen from seven
24 in 1987 to seventeen in 2016; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
28 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human
29 Services is requested to provide an estimate of the budget
30 appropriation and legislative action necessary to fund an
31 expansion of Med-QUEST coverage to all otherwise eligible post-
32 partum women in the State for a period of twelve months
33 following childbirth; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
36 Services is requested to submit a report of its findings and
37 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
38 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
39 the Regular Session of 2021; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human



H.C.R. NO. 16

1 Services, Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems
 2 Corporation, Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
 3 Health Systems Corporation Oahu Region, and Chair of the
 4 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Hawaii
 5 Section.

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JAN 17 2020

