

### March of Dimes Advocacy accomplishments

**March of Dimes has a strong record of success improving maternal and infant health policy, which reflects decades of commitment advocating with policymakers across the political spectrum for moms and babies.**

**For more information on these victories or policy initiatives in 2023-24, contact any member of our OGA team.**

#### **National victories and achievements**

- Hosted March for Change advocacy days to create momentum and change for legislation supporting moms and babies in 18 states and Washington D.C. Nearly 300 advocates participated, and we held more than 150 meetings with lawmakers.
- Ensured passage of two top legislative priorities: the Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act and the Rural MOMS Act in the FY 22 Omnibus Appropriations bill. The budget also includes critical new investments for the following: Maternal and child health and development research programs; newborn screening; health workforce; expansion and enhancement of adult vaccination access; screening and treatment for mental depression; maternal mental health hotline; and substance abuse and mental health treatment for pregnant and postpartum women.
- Ensured passage of the year-end FY 23 omnibus that included:
  - A permanent extension from 60 days to 12 months on coverage of full benefits for eligible pregnant and postpartum women for up to one year. This capped efforts by March of Dimes to ensure 26 individual states implemented this extension. In total, an estimated 720,000 Americans are to receive expanded access to postpartum coverage if states take up the option.
  - The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act that establishes a national framework requiring employers to provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant workers to ensure they have healthy pregnancies.
  - The Into the Light for Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Act that provides an authorization for the Maternal Mental Health Hotline at HHS, authorizes a maternal mental health task force, and expands the state grant program that supports pregnant and postpartum women who suffer with addiction.
  - The TRIUMPH for New Moms Act, which will create a federal maternal mental health task force to identify existing programs and best practices, create a national strategy and issue recommendations to governors, and improve utilization of federal resources.
  - The PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act that would strengthen the Break Time for Nursing Mothers law by expanding workplace protections for lactating workers, clarifying employers' obligations under the law, and ensuring breastfeeding moms have access to appropriate remedies.
  - A two-year extension of continuous coverage under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) extension that would last through FY 2029.
  - The Jackie Walorski Maternal and Child Home Visiting Program that reauthorizes the home visiting program through 2027 and provides \$500 million in FY 23; \$550 million in FY 24; \$600 million in FY 25; \$650 million in FY 26; and \$800 million in FY 27.
  - Mandatory 12-month continuous eligibility for children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP beginning in January 2024.

- Legacy IRA Act that would encourage charitable giving by enabling seniors to make tax-free contributions from individual retirement accounts (IRAs) to charities through life-income plans.
- \$10 million to establish a research network that support minority serving institutions to study health disparities in maternal health outcomes. This language originates from the Data to Save Moms Act, part of the Momnibus.
- Increased funding for six priority maternal and infant health programs:
  - Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD): \$1.749 million (+\$66 million) to allow NICHD to sustain vital research on maternal and child health.
  - Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Moms and Babies Initiative: \$23 million (+\$10 million) to expand to all 50 states, territories, and jurisdictions on the impact of COVID-19 and new public health threats.
  - Safe Motherhood Initiative: \$108 million (+\$25 million) to support expansion of Maternal Mortality Review Committees and Perinatal Quality Collaboratives to all 50 states and territories.
  - Newborn screening: \$21 million for the CDC's Quality Assurance Program (+\$2 million) and a \$1 million increase for the Health Resources and Services Administration's Heritable Disorders Program. The bill also includes \$1 million to commission a study on improving practices.
  - Grants for maternal depression screening and treatment: \$10 million (+\$3.5 million) to help expand this program to an additional five states for pregnant and postpartum women experiencing depression and other behavioral health conditions.
  - Maternal mental health hotline: \$7 million that will allow qualified counselors to staff a hotline 24 hours a day and conduct outreach efforts on maternal mental health issues.
- Successfully advocated for inclusion of a three-year extension of the Affordable Care Act's advance premium tax credits (APTCs) in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Without this extension, which was set to expire on September 30, families across America would have experienced a 53% increase in health insurance costs.
- Advocated successfully for the passage of the Data Mapping to Save Moms Lives Act directing the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to include data on certain maternal health outcomes in its broadband health mapping tool.
- Secured passage and enactment of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act which would reauthorize programs at several federal agencies that support screening and early intervention services for newborns, infants, and young children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Supported the passage of the Access to Baby Formula Act that provides regulatory relief and maximum flexibility to state and local providers as they support low-income families during product recalls and public health emergencies. It also works to assure a coordinated, public-private response to infant formula recalls and supply disruptions.

### **State victories and achievements**

#### **AL:**

- Secured General Fund budget appropriation for \$8.5 million dollars to extend postpartum Medicaid from 60 days to 12 months.
- Secured funding appropriations for four new substance use treatment facilities specifically focused on providing designated space for pregnant and postpartum women.
- Passed legislation to prohibit restraint and shackling of pregnant women during transport, during labor and delivery, and during the postpartum period.
- Renewed funding appropriations for the state Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

#### **AZ:**

- Passed budget appropriations to support postpartum extension to one full year.

**CA:**

- \$6 million in funding for the California Omnibus Act.
- \$30 million total funding for continuous coverage for children age 0-5 in the Medicaid program.
- March of Dimes held a virtual meeting with Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the First Partner of California. We and the First Partner spoke of the critical issues facing moms and babies, and the extraordinary steps that Governor Newsom's administration has taken to ensure that families in all their forms get a healthy start.

**CT:**

- Market staff lobbied in support of Public Act No. 22-58's (HB 5500) provisions improving access to doulas.

**GA:**

- Championed SB338 to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months.
- Supported appropriations for two pilot programs aimed at managing high-risk pregnancies and addressing cardiac issues in pregnant and postpartum women.
- Supported appropriations for nearly half a million dollars to provide Medicaid reimbursement for human donor breastmilk.

**HI:**

- Passed legislation to extend Medicaid coverage to one full year postpartum.

**KS:**

- Passed legislation granting full practice authority to Advance Practice Registered Nurses.
- Supported newborn screening modernization and funding.

**KY:**

- Supported legislation related to implicit bias training, postpartum extension, and Medicaid coverage for midwives and doulas.

**LA:**

- Defeated anti-vaccination legislation.
- Passed legislation to provide Medicaid coverage for prescription human donor breastmilk.
- Passed legislation to provide a provision relative to universal perinatal mood disorder screening for primary care doctors.
- Established the Study Commission on Maternal Health and Wellbeing to make recommendations on connecting pregnant women and new moms, particularly in rural and underserved areas, with resources for the health and wellbeing of the mom and child.

**MO:**

- Supported legislation to extend comprehensive postpartum coverage to one full year postpartum.
- Staff participated in a maternal mortality roundtable with U.S. Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver.

**MI:**

- State budget included full funding for the MC3 Perinatal program to address psychiatric and behavioral health needs.

**NC:**

- Called attention to the importance of Medicaid Expansion, NC Omnibus, and practice authority for Advanced Practice RNs.
- Signed a national letter with other national non-profit CEOs in support of Medicaid Expansion legislation.

**NE:**

- Passed legislation to provide for perinatal mental health screenings.

**NJ:**

- State budget includes a doubling for funding for the NurtureNJ program, \$1 million for expanded nurse midwife workforce development and \$600,000 for maternal feedback on Quality of Care database program.

**NY:**

- The Legislature approved the state’s plan to extend postpartum coverage under Medicaid.

**OH:**

- Punitive proposal March of Dimes has actively opposed has not advanced since M4C. A proposal to improve access to doulas that we’re lobbying in support of passed the Ohio House.

**OK:**

- Passed legislation requiring list of disorders on state newborn screening program to match federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel.

**PR:**

- Passed legislation establishing Perinatal Mental Health Awareness Day in May annually.

**SC:**

- Supported legislation related to implicit bias training for healthcare providers.

**TN:**

- Passed legislation to prohibit restraint and shackling of pregnant women during transport, during labor and delivery, and during the postpartum period.
- Passed two telehealth bills:
  - SB2453 would sunset the two-year provision within this 2020 pandemic-related law regarding the delivery of telehealth services.
  - SB1846 will allow for “audio only” visits when in-person or audio-visual capability is not available to support families without access to broadband services, computer, or smart phone.
- Passed legislation the Dept. of Health and the Bureau of TennCare to study national doula certification programs and make recommendations for TN doula certification.

**TX:**

- Submitted written state comments, public state testimony, and federal level comments regarding TX’s 1115 waiver application to extend postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months. All comments encouraged full 12-month extension via a State Plan Amendment available via ARPA.

**WI:**

- Championed legislation to extend postpartum coverage to one full year.

**Grassroots victories and achievements**

- March of Dimes’ Advocacy Network continues to grow at a record-setting pace, increasing by over 38% in 2022. Last year saw the largest ever growth for the network in a single quarter, with more than 4,700 advocates joining the Network between July and September.
- Throughout 2022, more than 11,000 advocates took action through the Network, raising their voices to speak up on behalf of moms, babies, and families.
- Over 25,000 connections were made through the Advocacy Network in 2022, showing the importance of March of Dimes’ policy priorities and the resonance they have with our community.