Dear Speaker Pelosi, and Majority Leader Schumer,

We, the undersigned 152 state elected officials across 38 states, call on the U.S. Congress to enact permanent and mandatory postpartum Medicaid coverage for one year. Congress must seize the opportunity to ensure quality healthcare access for pregnant and postpartum individuals in every state across the nation.

Pregnant and birthing people are directly impacted by Medicaid, with nearly half of births in the U.S. being covered by Medicaid. Despite women and birthing people experiencing pregnancy-related complications and morbidities up to one-year postpartum, federal Medicaid and CHIP coverage ends only 60 days after birth. Furthermore, approximately thirty-three percent of pregnancy-related deaths occur within a week to one year after birth, and Black and Indigenous women are disproportionately impacted. Black women are 3 to 4 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women are, and Indigenous women 2.5 times more likely. The Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention finds that 60% of maternal deaths are preventable. Other complications related to maternal mental health, such as postpartum depression, can also affect women and birthing people, with diagnoses as late as three years postpartum. Through a mandatory provision on postpartum Medicaid, state officials can work to meet the needs of women and birthing people in the critical postpartum period.

The current Medicaid disenrollment freeze implemented due to the pandemic demonstrates that as a nation, we are capable of providing continuous healthcare for women and birthing people beyond the 60-day postpartum threshold. An additional measure, the American Rescue Plan allows states to voluntarily extend postpartum Medicaid coverage using a state plan amendment, but very few states have taken this option and will not be enough to provide needed healthcare coverage to birthing people. While this measure is a positive step, the varied uptake by states widens disparate access to postpartum care across our nation. These short-term and emergency actions do not provide the consistent coverage birthing people need beyond the pandemic. The most effective and equitable measure is permanent, mandatory postpartum Medicaid coverage for one year.

As state elected officials, we are committed to ensuring access to quality healthcare for our constituents. Through strong investments in maternal health care coverage and programs, we can work with community-based organizations focused on advancing maternal health, particularly among Black and Indigenous populations who experience higher maternal mortality and morbidity. We urge Congress to pass permanent and mandatory postpartum Medicaid coverage for one year so that our mothers, families, and communities can survive and thrive regardless of the state in which they live.

Sincerely,

State Representative Geran Tarr, Alaska

State Senator Rosanna Gabaldon, Arizona
State Representative Yadira Caraveo, Colorado
State Representative Susan Lontine, Colorado
State Representative Emily Sirota, Colorado
State Representative Brianna Titone, Colorado
State Senator Gary Winfield, Connecticut
State Representative Kate Farrar, Connecticut
State Representative Eleni Kavros DeGraw, Connecticut
State Representative Quentin “Q” Phipps, Connecticut
State Representative Robyn A. Porter, Connecticut
State Representative Michael D. Quinn, Connecticut
State Senator Stephanie Hansen, Delaware
State Senator Sarah McBride, Delaware
State Senator Marie Pinkney, Delaware
State Senator Nicole Poore, Delaware
State Representative Melissa Minor-Brown, Delaware
State Representative Dotie Joseph, Florida
State Senator Kim Jackson, Georgia
State Senator Elena Parent, Georgia
State Representative Rhonda M Burnough, Georgia
State Representative Park Cannon, Georgia
State Representative Jasmine Clark, Georgia
State Representative Viola Davis, Georgia
State Representative Stacey Evans, Georgia
State Representative CaMia Hopson, Georgia
State Representative Shelly Hutchinson, Georgia
State Representative Marvin Lim, Georgia
State Representative Donna McLeod, Georgia
State Representative Rebecca Mitchell, Georgia
State Representative Kim Schofield, Georgia
State Representative Beth Moore, Georgia
State Representative Sheila C. Nelson, Georgia
State Representative Shea Roberts, Georgia
State Representative Mary Robichaux, Georgia
State Representative Renitta Shannon, Georgia
State Senator Janet Petersen, Iowa
State Senator Sarah Trone Garriott, Iowa
State Representative Marti Anderson, Iowa
State Representative Kam Buckner, Illinois
State Representative Carolyn Jackson, Indiana
State Senator Mary A. Ware, Kansas
State Representative McKenzie Cantrell, Kentucky
State Representative Joni Jenkins, Kentucky
State Representative Attica Scott, Kentucky
State Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman, Louisiana
State Representative Mandie Landry, Louisiana
State Senator Jo Comerford, Massachusetts
State Representative Christine P. Barber, Massachusetts
State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, Massachusetts
State Senator Shelly Hettleman, Maryland
State Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr, Maryland
State Delegate David Moon, Maryland
State Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Maryland
State Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Maryland
State Senator Anne Carney, Maine
State Representative Victoria Doudera, Maine
State Representative Thom Harnett, Maine
State Representative Jay McCreight, Maine
State Representative Rebecca Millett, Maine
State Representative Laurie Osher, Maine
State Representative Bill Pluecker, Maine
State Representative Amy Roeder, Maine
State Representative Lynne Williams, Maine
State Senator Rosemary Bayer, Michigan
State Representative Rachel Hood, Michigan
State Representative Laurie Pohutsky, Michigan
State Representative Ranjeev Puri, Michigan
State Representative Mike Freiberg, Minnesota
State Representative Ingrid Burnett, Missouri
State Representative Tracy McCreery, Missouri
State Representative Sonya Williams Barnes, Mississippi
State Representative Jessica Karjala, Montana
State Senator Sydney Batch, North Carolina
State Senator Sarah Crawford, North Carolina
State Senator Natasha Marcus, North Carolina
State Senator Natalie Murdock, North Carolina
State Senator Gladys A. Robinson, North Carolina
State Representative Susan Fisher, North Carolina
State Representative Pricey Harrison, North Carolina
State Representative Julie von Haefen, North Carolina
State Senator Tim Mather, North Dakota
State Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, Nebraska
State Senator Becky Whittley, New Hampshire
State Representative Richard Abel, New Hampshire
State Representative Efstatia Booras, New Hampshire
State Representative Timothy Horrigan, New Hampshire
State Representative Rebecca McBeath, New Hampshire
State Representative Maria Elizabeth Perez, New Hampshire
State Representative Alexis Simpson, New Hampshire
State Representative Edith M. Tucker, New Hampshire
State Representative Andrea Romero, New Mexico
State Representative Liz Thomson, New Mexico
State Assemblymember Michelle Gorelow, Nevada
State Assemblymember Sarah Peters, Nevada
State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, New York
State Senator Michelle Hinchey, New York
State Senator Liz Krueger, New York
State Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas, New York
State Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, New York
State Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, New York
State Senator Nickie J. Antonio, Ohio
State Senator Teresa Fedor, Ohio
State Representative Janine Boyd, Ohio
State Representative Allison Russo, Ohio
State Representative Rachel Prusak, Oregon
State Representative Anna Williams, Oregon
State Senator Lisa M. Boscola, Pennsylvania
State Senator Maria Collett, Pennsylvania
State Senator Carolyn T. Comitta, Pennsylvania
State Senator John Kane, Pennsylvania
State Senator Tim Kearney, Pennsylvania
State Senator Nikil Saval, Pennsylvania
State Senator Judy Schwank, Pennsylvania
State Representative Jessica Benham, Pennsylvania
State Representative Danilo Burgos, Pennsylvania
State Representative Dan Frankel, Pennsylvania
State Representative Nancy Guenst, Pennsylvania
State Representative Carol Hill-Evans, Pennsylvania
State Representative Malcolm Kenyatta, Pennsylvania
State Representative Rick Krajewski, Pennsylvania
State Representative Michael Schlossberg, Pennsylvania
State Senator Cynthia Mendes, Rhode Island
State Representative Liana Cassar, Rhode Island
State Representative Terri Cortvriend, Rhode Island
State Representative Susan Donovan, Rhode Island
State Representative Joshua Giraldo, Rhode Island
State Representative Rebecca Kislak, Rhode Island
State Representative Michelle E McGaw, Rhode Island
State Representative Brandon Potter, Rhode Island
State Representative Marcia Ranglin-Vassell, Rhode Island
State Representative Teresa Tanzi, Rhode Island
State Senator Sara Kyle, Tennessee
State Representative Gloria Johnson, Tennessee
State Representative Jasmine Crockett, Texas
State Representative Ina Minjarez, Texas
State Representative Shawn Thierry, Texas
State Representative Rosemary Lesser, Utah
State Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale, Vermont
State Representative Selene Colburn, Vermont
State Representative Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, Vermont
State Representative Barbara Rachelson, Vermont
State Representative Taylor Small, Vermont
State Representative Tanya Vyhoffsky, Vermont
State Senator Marko Liias, Washington
State Senator Emily Randall, Washington
State Representative Nicole Macri, Washington
State Senator LaTonya Johnson, Wisconsin
State Senator Kelda Roys, Wisconsin
State Representative Jill Billings, Wisconsin
State Representative Katrina Shankland, Wisconsin
State Representative Lisa Subeck, Wisconsin