About 50% of all Rhode Island births are paid for by Medicaid insurance, but comprehensive Medicaid coverage extends only through 60 days postpartum for many women. Postpartum care includes recovery from childbirth, follow up on health complications, management of chronic and acute health conditions, mental health care, and access to family planning. About 1 in 5 Rhode Island mothers of infants report a depression diagnosis during and/or after pregnancy. Depression is more common among low-income mothers and mothers who are People of Color. Consistent access to health insurance coverage will help to reduce maternal mortality and improve maternal health. Babies need healthy moms to provide consistent and nurturing care throughout the first year of life.

12-Month Postpartum Medicaid Extension:

- This proposal extends continuous coverage of full benefit medical assistance for 12 months postpartum to women regardless of immigration status.

- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) gives states the option to extend Medicaid coverage through 12 months postpartum with uninterrupted coverage despite any changes during the year (i.e., household size, income, age) for up to 5 years through a State Plan Amendment that uses federal matching funds. The Build Back Better Act includes a provision that would permanently require states to provide 12 months of postpartum coverage in Medicaid/CHIP at the state’s current federal match rate.

- As of February 2022, 26 states have taken action to extend Medicaid coverage through 12 months postpartum, including almost every state east of the Mississippi.