



North Carolina Obstetrical & Gynecological Society

P. O. Box 27167 • Raleigh, NC 27611

Tel: 919-833-3836 • ncobgyn@nemedsoc.org

NC Ob/Gyn Society 2022 Legislative Priorities

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The North Carolina Obstetrical & Gynecological Society (NCOGS) is the voice of Ob/Gyn physicians in North Carolina. Through education, advocacy, communication and professional relations, we seek quality, safe care for all NC women and their children.

- **Expand Medicaid eligibility** – Healthy babies require healthy moms. Unfortunately, thousands of North Carolina women of child-bearing age have untreated chronic illnesses such as hypertension when they become pregnant – threatening the health of both mom and baby. Providing these women with healthcare *before* they become pregnant is an essential – and cost effective – strategy to reduce infant and maternal mortality.
- **Increase the number of members on the NC Maternal Mortality Review Committee** – NC DHHS receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support the work of the NC Maternal Mortality Review Committee and prevent maternal deaths and morbidity. A requirement of this federal funding includes broader representation than currently allowed under NC statute. Currently the Maternal Mortality Review Committee is limited to nine members which does not allow for the diversity of representation required by the CDC. Expanding the number of members to up to twenty will ensure \$450,000 in continued CDC funding. This request is supported by NC DHHS, is revenue neutral and has no known opposition.

Reduce Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

- **Provide Medicaid reimbursement for doulas** – This proposal has been recommended by two NC Institute of Medicine task forces, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) and the NC DHHS Divisions of Public Health and Health Benefits (Medicaid) as an evidence-based strategy to reduce infant mortality and maternal mortality.
- **Provide Medicaid reimbursement for group prenatal care** - this proposal has been recommended by two NC Institute of Medicine task forces, ACOG, the Child Fatality Task Force and the NC DHHS Divisions of Public Health and Health Benefits (Medicaid) as an evidence-based strategy to reduce infant mortality and maternal mortality.
- **Increase Medicaid reimbursement for bundle payments** – this policy has been endorsed by ACOG as well as the NC DHHS Division of Health Benefits (Medicaid) as an evidence-based strategy to improve infant and maternal health care.

These initiatives are included in the Governor's budget and have a total a total cost for FY23 of \$11.6M including \$8.8M recurring and \$2.8M nonrecurring.

- **Address maternal and infant safety issues in scope debate with Certified Nurse Midwives -** NCOGS supports adoption of a new practice model for Certified Nurse Midwives which would eliminate required physician supervision and move to a model that is collaborative with partner physicians. To date nursing organizations have opposed the collaboration model and continue to advocate for complete independent licensure. NCOGS opposes the SAVE Act (HB277 / SB249) without a collaboration agreement requirement for CNMs and/or other provisions to ensure maternal and infant safety.
- **Reproductive Issues -** The North Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecological Society bases its clinical and policy recommendations on the strength of evidence that these recommendations will ensure that women receive safe, medically accurate and evidence-based care. The Society applies this standard in consultation with its national partner, the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG). Based on this standard and with insights provided by ACOG, NCOGS is opposed to HB453 Human Life Nondiscrimination/No Eugenics, as well as HB510/SB405 Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

For more information about the NC OB/Gyn Society's policy priorities please contact Society lobbyist Rob Lamme at (919) 630-3375 or roblamme@rlamme.com.