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January 29, 2020

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## **MCMCH Celebrates Governor's Attention to Maternal and Child Health in State of the State**

**LANSING, Mich.** — Members of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health praised the strategies Governor Whitmer proposed in her State of the State speech to address the high rates of maternal and infant mortality in our state.

The call to extend Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months postpartum for mothers will save lives. For pregnant women covered by Medicaid, the clock is ticking on their insurance coverage once their baby is born. Once their postpartum coverage ends, many women become uninsured or have a lapse in coverage and gaps in needed care. This is especially concerning given that one in three pregnancy-related deaths occur in the postpartum period. According to Michigan's most recent Maternal Mortality Surveillance Program report, among the reviewed pregnancy-related deaths, 52.5 percent were determined to be preventable; among the reviewed pregnancy-associated, not related injury cases, 44.1 percent were deemed to be preventable. In 2018, Medicaid covered 46 percent of all births in Michigan.

"Providers and hospitals are working hard to address immediate causes of loss such as preeclampsia, obstetric hemorrhage, cardiomyopathy and other cardiovascular disease," said Rosalyn Maben-Feaster, MD, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology with Michigan Medicine and member of MCMCH's Executive Board. "It's time for us to also implement policies that prevent losses in the 'fourth trimester' when we know women are at risk of pregnancy-related complications and behavioral health conditions, including suicide and overdose."

Governor Whitmer also highlighted the need for access to contraception and to invest more in evidence-based home visiting programs for pregnant women and new families. Most importantly, she noted the unacceptable disparities in Michigan's maternal and infant mortality rates with Black women three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes and Black infants more than twice as likely to die as their white counterparts.

"As advocates for public policy that supports healthy mothers and children, we applaud Governor Whitmer's announcements today," said Amy Zaagman, MCMCH executive director. "We thank her for putting the human future of our state on the same platform with our infrastructure and workforce challenges. We look forward to working with the administration and the Legislature on these common sense ways to improve outcomes for moms and babies."

Founded in 1983, MCMCH is an organization of diverse partners representing hospital systems, statewide organizations, local public health advocates and individuals with an interest in the advancement of maternal and child health. For more information, visit [mcmch.org](http://mcmch.org).

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