

# ADVANCING EQUITY IN MATERNAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

The American health care system currently struggles to provide many childbearing women and newborns with equitable, effective and affordable health care, leading to disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes.

## REDUCING DISPARITIES, IMPROVING OUTCOMES

ACHP recommends Congress pass the comprehensive **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act** to reduce and eliminate disparities in maternal health care and impact the lives of millions of women and babies in the U.S., including:

- ▶ **Social Determinants for Moms Act (H.R. 943/S. 851) to develop strategies to address social determinants of maternal health.** To improve overall health outcomes, it's imperative that pregnant women have access to transportation, healthy food and stable housing.
- ▶ **Tech to Save Moms Act (H.R. 937/S. 893) to increase access to digital tools in maternal care.** Extending telehealth, technology-enabled collaborative learning and other digital tools to rural and medically underserved areas can reduce disparities in maternal care.
- ▶ **IMPACT to Save Moms Act (H.R. 950/S. 334) to support alternative payment models in covering maternal health care.** Payment models focused on value and quality are critical to improving outcomes while reducing unnecessary medical services and overall costs.

## ACHP MEMBERS AT WORK IN COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE

Addressing maternal health disparities on the individual, community and policy levels enables ACHP member companies to drive change using their core competencies - while partnering to address critical issues across the system. This comprehensive approach emphasizes relationship with the community, provider engagement and tailoring care to what works best for individuals and specific communities. ACHP member health plans are acting on multiple fronts, including:

- ▶ Partnering extensively with non-health related community-based organizations, incorporating minority voices in program development, implementation and evaluation.
- ▶ Using alternative payment models for maternity care.
- ▶ Covering doula services, with additional plans piloting doula coverage and/or advocating with state legislatures for Medicaid coverage of doula services.

## COLLABORATING TO MEET MATERNAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Through a multi-stakeholder project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ACHP member plans, in collaboration with the [National Partnership for Women and Families](#), are currently studying health plan practices to best determine how to meet the comprehensive maternal care needs, improve maternal health outcomes and reduce health disparities.

**ACHP is committed to ensuring that all women and newborns have access to high quality, affordable coverage and care.**

*The Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP) represents the nation's top-performing non-profit health plans to improve affordability and outcomes in the health care system. ACHP member companies provide high-quality coverage and care to 24 million Americans across 36 states and D.C.*