Statement on White House Decisions to Expand Medicaid PostPartum Coverage

HealthyWomen supports the important steps taken by the White House on Friday to protect the lives of 720,000 pregnant and postpartum women by guaranteeing Medicaid and Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage for a full 12 months after pregnancy. Made possible by the American Rescue Plan, this extension of Medicaid and CHIP will help to address major maternal health issues that occur during and after pregnancy for too many women.

One-third of all maternal deaths occur shortly after birth and within the first year, with the rates being five times higher among Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women. Since Medicaid covers 42% of all births in the nation, this extension of coverage during a key and vulnerable period of time for pregnant and postpartum women will help to address the nation’s crisis in pregnancy-related deaths and maternal morbidity, as well as reduce health disparities and inequalities at a key time in life.