

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SB 5068

SB 5068, Improving maternal health outcomes by extending coverage during the postpartum period (2021 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that SB 5068 would likely increase access to health insurance for income-eligible individuals who are postpartum, which may increase access to and use of healthcare services, improve health outcomes, and decrease health inequities.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Randall, Rivers

Summary of Bill:

- Directs Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to maintain healthcare coverage for 12 months postpartum for individuals who are receiving postpartum coverage on or after the expiration date of the federal public health emergency declaration related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Directs HCA, by June 1, 2022, to provide 12 months of continuous healthcare coverage to individuals who are postpartum and reside in Washington State, have countable income equal to or below 193% of the federal poverty level, and are not otherwise eligible under Title XIX of the Federal Social Security Act regardless of a change in income during the period of eligibility.
- Specifies the amount and scope of healthcare services provided must be the same as that provided to individuals who are pregnant and postpartum under medical assistance, as defined in RCW 74.09.520 (Medical assistance—Care and services included—Funding limitations).
- Directs HCA, in collaboration with Washington Health Benefit Exchange and stakeholder and community organizations, to establish a comprehensive, culturally and linguistically appropriate community education and outreach campaign to facilitate enrollment in this program.
- Directs HCA to submit a waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to allow for the state to receive federal match for coverage outlined and to submit a report to the Legislature on the status of the request by December 1, 2021. Specifies that HCA shall provide coverage to all eligible individuals regardless of federal approval of the waiver request.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence for provisions in SB 5068:

- **Strong evidence** that HCA extending coverage under Apple Health for Pregnant Women plans from 60 days to 12 months postpartum would increase access to health insurance.

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- **Very strong evidence** that increased access to health insurance would improve health outcomes.
- **Very strong evidence** that increased access to health insurance would increase access to and use of healthcare services.
- **Very strong evidence** that increased access to and use of healthcare services would improve health outcomes.
- **Very strong evidence** that improved health outcomes would decrease health inequities.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<https://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2021-01-SB5068.pdf>

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