

SUBJECT: Extending postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months

COMMITTEE: Health Care Reform, Select — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Harless, Howard, Bonnen, Bucy, Frank, Klick, E. Morales, Oliverson, Price, Rose

0 nays

1 absent — Walle

WITNESSES: For — Marjorie Quint-bouzid, Parkland Health; Emily Bourgeois, Religious Action Center of TX; Diana Forester, Texans Care for Children; Glenn Hamer, Texas Association of Business; Shannon Jaquette, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Doug Curran, Texas Medical Association, Texas Association of OBGYNs, Texas Academy of Family Physicians, Texas Pediatric Society, Texas Chapter American College of Physicians, American College of OBGYNs-district xi, Texas Public Health COA; Ankit Sanghavi, Texas Primary Care Consortium; David Balat, Texas Public Policy Foundation; D’Andra Willis, The Afiya Center; Connie Bunch; Patrice Lott; Nakeenya Wilson (*Registered, but did not testify*); Lauren Johnson, ACLU of Texas; Dr. Charles Lee Brown, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Alec Puente, American Heart Association; Cynthia Humphrey, Association of Substance Abuse Programs; Travis Krogman, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Anthony Haley, Jesse Sifuentez, Baylor Scott & White Health; Pati McCandless, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas; Evan Autry, CareSource Mission; Tim Ottinger, CHI St. Lukes Health System; Jason Sabo, Children at Risk; Georgia Bates, Children’s Defense Fund; Adrienne Lloyd, Children's Defense Fund-Texas; Michaela Bennett, Children’s Health; Christina Hoppe, Children’s Hospital Association of Texas; Travis Richmond, CHRISTUS Health; Kandice Sanaie, Cigna; Nadia Islam, City of San Antonio; Denise Rose, Community Health Systems; Rachel Pearl Piotrkowski, Council for a Strong America; Rebekah Chenelle, Dallas County Commissioners Court; Ben Stratmann, Dallas Regional Chamber; Kimberly Avila Edwards, Dell Children’s

Medical Center & Ascension Seton; Heather Vasek, DHR Health Hidalgo County; Michael Dole, Driscoll Health System; Katherine Strandberg, Every Body Texas; Anne Dunkelberg, Every Texan; Georgia Bates, Greater Houston Partnership; Paul Sugg, Harris County Commissioners Court; Jennifer Biundo, Healthy Futures of Texas; Lindsay Lanagan, Legacy Community Health; Georgia Bates, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; Nora Del bosque, March of Dimes; Bill Kelly, Mayor's Office, City of Houston; Rebecca Fowler, Mental Health America of Greater Houston; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Hannah Gill, NAMI Texas; Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter; Simone Nichols-Segers, National MS Society; Jennifer Rodriguez, North Texas Commission; Andrew Cates, Nurse Family Partnership; Ben Stratmann, Pediatrix Medical Group; Darcy Caballero, Planned Parenthood Texas Votes; Hannah Mehta, Protect TX Fragile Kids; Katy Miles-Wallace, Southwestern Texas Synod; Sue Briner, Southwestern Texas Synod-ELCA; Eric Glenn, Superior Health Plan; Russell Schaffner, Tarrant County Commissioners Court; Maureen Milligan, Teaching Hospitals of Texas; Alec Mendoza, Texans Care for Children; Charles Miller, Texas 2036; Tom Banning, Marshall Kenderdine, Texas Academy of Family Physicians; Daniela De Luna, Texas Association of Community Health Centers; Kay Ghahremani, Texas Association of Community Health Plans; Jamie Dudensing, Texas Association of Health Plans; John Litzler, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission; David Reynolds, Texas Chapter American College of Physicians; Meredith Cooke, Texas Children's Health Plan; Meredith Cooke, Texas Children's Hospital; Isabel Casas, Texas Council of Community Centers; Gabriella Fuentes, Texas Council on Family Violence; Reed Clay, Texas Health Resources; Cameron Duncan, Texas Hospital Association; Joshua Houston, Texas Impact; Laurie Vanhooose, Texas Managed Care Alliance; Clayton Travis, Texas Pediatric Society; Erin Walter, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry; Kristen Lenau, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition; Laura Atlas Kravitz, Texas Women's Foundation; Kerrie Judice, TexProtects; Kathryn Ryan, The Episcopal Diocese of Texas; Cicely Kay, Travis County Commissioners Court; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Elisa Hernandez, University Medical Center of El Paso; Naomi Cruz, Young Invincibles; and eight

individuals)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cary Cheshire)

On — John Seago, Texas Right to Life (*Registered, but did not testify*: Molly Lester, Stephanie Stephens, Health and Human Services Commission)

**DIGEST:** HB 12 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide Medicaid coverage to Medicaid-eligible women for at least 12 months beginning on the last day of the woman's pregnancy and ending on the last day of the month in which the 12-month period ends. As soon as practicable after the bill's effective date, the HHSC executive commissioner would be required to seek a Medicaid state plan amendment from the appropriate federal agency. HHSC could delay implementing the bill until the state plan amendment was approved.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 12 would extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months after the end of a pregnancy for people who are currently eligible for Medicaid, which could lower maternal morbidity and mortality rates in the state and save lives. Many pregnancy related deaths are preventable, and providing comprehensive health care after delivery could improve pregnancy outcomes. The bill would give Medicaid recipients better access to primary and preventative care during and after pregnancy, which could reduce health care costs by preventing more pregnancy complications. Comprehensive postpartum coverage also could reduce racial disparities in health outcomes for pregnant people.

Last session, the Legislature extended postpartum Medicaid coverage from two months to six months after the end of a pregnancy. This required the state to apply for a federal Medicaid waiver, which has not yet been approved. Extending postpartum coverage to 12 months would allow the

HB 12  
House Research Organization  
page 4

state to apply for a state plan amendment, which would require a much more expedient response from the federal government.

CRITICS  
SAY:

HB 12 would provide 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage for any person after the end of a pregnancy. The bill should not extend coverage to those who received an elective abortion.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of about \$147 million on general revenue related funds through fiscal 2024-25.