



February 9, 2018

Chair Mitch Greenlick
House Committee on Healthcare

RE: Support for HB 4133 Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee

The maternal mortality rate in the United States has dramatically increased in the last decade, putting expecting mothers at serious risk. Between 1990 and 2013, the maternal mortality ratio in the US more than doubled from an estimated 12 to 28 maternal deaths per 100,000 births and the country has a higher ratio than those reported for most high-income countries. About half of all maternal deaths in the US are preventable.

Each year an estimated 1200 women in the US suffer complications during pregnancy or childbirth that prove fatal and 60,000 suffer complications that are near-fatal – even though costs of maternity care in 2012 exceeded \$60 billion.

Establishing a review committee in Oregon like the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative will help decrease maternal mortality rates by reviewing clinical maternal data and recommending improvement initiatives and furthering research that improves health outcomes for mothers and infants. This committee can act as a multi-stakeholder organization committed to ending preventable morbidity, mortality and racial disparities in the state's maternity care.

Cambia believes health insurance can be part of the solution to this growing problem. In 2010 the Affordable Care Act included maternal care as essential health benefits that insurance plans must cover. By extending insurance coverage to pregnant women with low incomes, many states have lowered the economic hurdles that limit access to antenatal care for millions of women.

However, there is much work to be done to educate women on all benefits available to them. In addition to these maternal benefits, Cambia health plans offer access to a phone app that guides expecting mothers through each stage of pregnancy that includes recommended actions for a healthy pregnancy. We are also developing new telehealth options for new mothers including one that promotes lactation.

We strongly support the committee to vote in favor of HB 4133 and offer our expertise and value to the review committee should this bill become law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

Sincerely,
Jamie Halstead, RN, CCM
Director, Clinical Services
Cambia Health Solutions