

# HOUSE BILL 12 REP. TONI ROSE

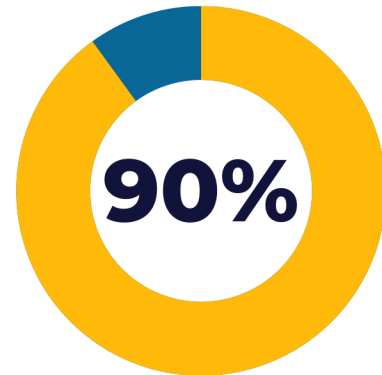
## 12 MONTHS COVERAGE FOR TX MOMS



The first year of a child's life is critically important for a healthy start. It's also important for mom's recovery from birth and the health of the whole family. Medicaid for Pregnant Women gives full healthcare coverage to low-income women during their pregnancies but ends just 60 days after they give birth.

### HB 12 expands coverage for these new moms to one full year.

Twelve months of coverage is the number one recommendation of the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Committee to prevent maternal deaths.



90% of maternal deaths are preventable<sup>1</sup>

**1 out of 4**



**Texas women of childbearing age are uninsured.**

A full year of healthcare coverage after giving birth means Texas moms have access to comprehensive healthcare. During the 12 months after giving birth—a critical period for the health of new moms—this coverage would allow them to see a doctor for any illnesses, access contraception, and get preventive health services to help them stay healthy.

Twelve months of coverage has already been adopted by most US states, including Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana. Mississippi is expected to pass similar legislation this year.

A recent Texas study by the Texas Policy Evaluation Project at The University of Texas at Austin followed women who had a publicly funded (Medicaid) birth and wanted to avoid a new pregnancy for at least the next two years.

The study found that twelve months of coverage gives new moms the opportunity to decide which birth control option works best for them and they can safely plan how to grow their families.

### For more information contact:

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<sup>1</sup> Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Committee and Department of Stat Health Services Joint Biennial Report 2022. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/legislative/2022-Reports/Joint-Biennial-MMMRC-Report-2022.pdf>

# "Why aren't you using your preferred method of birth control?"

In an interview 3 months after giving birth, new moms were asked why they weren't using their preferred method of birth control. This is what they had to say.

*"They told me I couldn't get my tubes tied because they lost the paperwork so they made me wait another 30 days but by then I couldn't get it because my Medicaid had lapsed."*

*"Because they told me it was too early and I had to wait 5 weeks postpartum and then it wasn't covered by insurance."*

*"Because I had to get it approved by Medicaid before the prescription could be sent to the pharmacy but now I can't because I am out of coverage."*

*"I couldn't because the doctor wanted to deal with my postpartum depression before talking about birth control methods. They gave me an appointment for October but my Medicaid expires on September 30th. I told them about my Medicaid and they said I would have to pay in cash but I'm unemployed."*

*"Because my doctor told me to schedule another visit for birth control and then my insurance expired. Which for my first son he had asked about birth control at that postpartum check-up but not this time. I am not sure if the rules have changed or what."*

*"They told me to come back when my next appointment was to get the implant because they didn't have it at the time. And by then I had lost my Medicaid."*



**At their postpartum visit, 66% of new moms on Medicaid did not receive a birth control method. By 3 months postpartum, their Medicaid had expired, and they could no longer afford to receive care.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>2</sup> Coleman-Minahan, K., et. al. "Why don't women in Texas get contraception at the first post partum visit?" Society for Family Planning poster presentation, 2016.