



Ohio Section
Amy Burkett, MD FACOG
Chair, Ohio Section

**Ohio Senate
Finance Committee
HB110 State Operating Budget
Testimony of Amy Burkett, MD FACOG
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Ohio Section**

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Finance Committee, on behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Ohio Section (ACOG) of which I am the current Section Chair, thank you. Thank you for making women's health a priority by extending postpartum Medicaid coverage to one-year in Sub. HB110. As physicians, we know preconception and interconception health care is a key component to having optimal pregnancy outcomes for both mom and baby. We believe this health care extension will be a key to success in our fight against Ohio's poor maternal and infant mortality and morbidity rates.

When you take a close look at maternal and infant morbidity/mortality numbers you can see chronic medical conditions such as obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure play a crucial role in poor pregnancy outcomes. Poorly controlled pre-gestational diabetes is linked to increased risk of congenital anomalies, growth problems in the baby, development of blood pressure problems of pregnancy and increased need for early deliveries. Chronic high blood pressure is also linked to poor fetal growth and worsening high blood pressure, or the development of pre-eclampsia can necessitate early delivery. These medically indicated early deliveries unfortunately put the baby at risk for complications of prematurity another leading cause of infant mortality. By extending Medicaid coverage for one-year postpartum it will allow Ohio's women to have ongoing medical care while they care for their newborn and reenter the workforce.

In conclusion, thank you again for extending Medicaid coverage to one-year postpartum, and we applaud initiatives in this budget that support both maternal and infant health and combat Ohio's abysmal infant mortality rates. Acknowledging the need for and supporting multi-pronged approaches such as, evidence-based home visiting, centering pregnancy, safe birth spacing, tobacco cessation and gestational diabetes are key to achieving success. We are supportive of these initiatives as well as fully funding the Pathways Community HUBs and prioritizing housing for low-income pregnant women.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we hope you will consider ACOG and our members a resource a valuable resource for all items relating to the practice of obstetrics and gynecology and women's health issues.

ACOG is our specialty's premier professional membership organization dedicated to the improvement of women's health. In Ohio, ACOG represents over 1500 obstetrician-gynecologists and their patients; and nationally ACOG represents approximately 58,000 obstetrician-gynecologists and women's health care professionals.