

**SUPPORT Budget Amendments 312 #1h, #1s and 313 #16h**

**Provide Prenatal Care to Low Income Immigrants**

 **SAVE $2.3 MILLION GF!**

For over a decade, federal law (enacted by the Administration of George W. Bush) has allowed states to provide prenatal care to pregnant immigrants who cannot otherwise get Medicaid or FAMIS, including undocumented immigrants. Seventeen states have taken this option.

Currently, while this pregnant woman cannot get Medicaid during her pregnancy, if she resides in Virginia and is income eligible for Medicaid, DMAS is required to provide her emergency Medicaid services at the time of her labor and delivery.

The option enables states to provide the pregnant woman comprehensive prenatal care before the baby is born – a very cost effective approach to protect the health of the mother and the baby.

* According to Virginia’s Maternal Mortality Review Team, inadequate prenatal care is the leading cause of maternal death.
* Undocumented women are much more likely to be uninsured and to face barriers in accessing routine prenatal interventions.
* Latinx individuals, who make up more than 50% of Virginia’s undocumented population are also at disproportionately high risk of exposure to COVID-19 and of experiencing severe health effects.
* The CDC found that Latinx expectant mothers appear to be disproportionately affected by COVID-19 infection during pregnancy (about 41% of COVID-19 cases among pregnant women nationwide).
* The newborn will be a U.S. Citizen and deemed eligible for Medicaid/FAMIS for one year, assuring the infants’ access to needed medical care and addressing the very high and disparate rate of uninsured Hispanic children in Virginia.

Because the proposal shifts costs to the FAMIS program which has a higher federal match rate, there is a **$2.3 million STATE GF** **SAVINGS and $7.3 million INCREASE IN FEDERAL FUNDS** to Virginia by adopting this policy.

**Support Virginia’s goals to reduce maternal and infant deaths and address disparate birth outcomes by race/ethnicity for women and their infants!**

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