



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Stabenow, Cardin, and Booker:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals that champions the health of all people and communities, I write in support of S. 560, the Oral Health for Moms Act.

The Oral Health for Moms Act would seek to improve oral health outcomes for mothers and their children by making oral health services for pregnant and postpartum mothers an essential health benefit in the health insurance marketplaces and the individual and small group markets nationwide, requiring coverage of these services by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program and creating a perinatal oral health outreach and education program. These important provisions align with the recommendations included in APHA's 2020 policy statement, ["Improving Access to Dental Care for Pregnant Women through Education, Integration of Health Services, Insurance Coverage, an Appropriate Dental Workforce, and Research."](#)

In addition to expanding coverage and access to oral health services for pregnant and postpartum mothers, the bill also includes provisions to advance racial equity in oral health. Specifically, the bill would require the creation of an oral health initiative for American Indian and Alaska Native populations to address existing barriers to care and establish mechanisms for outreach and education for pregnant and postpartum mothers in the American Indian and Alaska Native communities. This initiative aligns with APHA's priority of advancing racial equity, a crucial step towards achieving the healthiest nation in one generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director