March 14, 2022

**How to Submit Position Letter for AB 1930 (Arambula) re: CPSP during 12-months postpartum**

**Create an account with** [**California Advocates**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)**:** The California Legislature will only accept letters received through an online portal system called California Advocates.

* Create an account [here](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/), if you do not already have one.
* Follow the prompts and fill out the necessary information to set up your account.
* Once you've set up your account please follow the steps below to begin the letter submission process.

**Create a letter of support:** There is a sample letter on the next page for your reference. Please place the content of the sample letter on your own organizational **letterhead**, include a **signature**, and **tailor** as desired to reflect the perspective of your organization and/or why this bill is necessary. Personal stories are important!

**Submit a letter of support:** Once signed into the portal:

* Select the “Submit a Letter” (top left corner).
* Enter the bill number (AB 1930) and session type (Regular). Select “Search.”
* Ensure that the proper bill has populated and select “Next.”
* On the “Submit Letter as” page, either select or enter your organization.
* Ensure that Assembly Health Committee is selected. This will ensure that the appropriate legislative staffer will receive a copy of your letter. Select “Next.”
* Upload your letter, select “Support” under “Stance,” and enter a subject line. We suggest: [ORGANIZATION NAME] SUPPORT AB 1930 (Arambula)
* You will be prompted to a final “Review Your Submission” page where you can make sure the information you entered is accurate.
* Once you've done so, select “Submit.”

**You're done!**

**Sample Support Letter – AB 1930 (Arambula)**

***Submit via the online advocates portal:*** [***https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/***](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)

[Your organization’s letterhead]

[Date of Submission]

The Honorable Dr. Jim Wood, Chair

Assembly Health Committee

Capitol Office, 1020 N Street, Room 390

Sacramento, CA 94249

**Re: AB 1930 (Arambula) – Support for Medi-Cal Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program**

Dear Assemblymember Dr. Wood:

[INSERT ORGANIZATION’S NAME] writes to express our support for Assembly Bill 1930 (Arambula), a bill that will improve access to critical social and other supports for low-income mothers and infants during Medi-Cal’s new 12-month postpartum eligibility period. This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to: (1) continue Medi-Cal’s Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) benefit beyond the initial 60-day postpartum period; and (2) adopt the federal option to allow Comprehensive Perinatal Health Workers to provide supportive services in the mother’s home or elsewhere in the community, not just at a clinic or doctor’s office.

[INSERT SENTENCE OR SHORT PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND CONNECTION TO THIS ISSUE.]

Over half of maternal deaths occur between the first day up through the 365th day during postpartum period.[[1]](#footnote-1) Black mothers in California are now dying at a rate of almost six times the rate for white mothers and at a rate worse than the national average.[[2]](#footnote-2) The CPSP benefit connects mothers to necessary medical care and social supports during Medi-Cal’s extended 12-month postpartum eligibility period launching April 1, 2022.

CPSP reimburses for assessments, individualized care plans, and facilitating access to not only clinical care but also supportive services to address social determinants of health (SDOH). The CPSP benefit “wraps around” the medical care. Identifying and helping to address insecurity in food, housing, personal safety, immigration concerns, toxic stress, anxiety and depression, among other SDOH, is critical to improving maternal and infant health beyond the first 60 days after pregnancy. As the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative has recently noted, “warm hand offs” to ongoing medical care and supportive services will be critical for maternal health needs after obstetrical care ends.[[3]](#footnote-3) CPSP provides the necessary infrastructure and is already part of Medi-Cal’s State Plan with federal matching funds, without regard to immigration status. Recent federal guidance on implementing 12-month post-pregnancy coverage encourages states to provide the kinds of supportive services that CPSP does.[[4]](#footnote-4)

[OPTIONAL: ADD SPECIFIC REASONS FOR YOUR ORG SUPPORTING AB 1930.]

For these reasons, we that you support AB 1930 (Arambula) so that California can address racial disparities in maternal health, provide needed family supports during the critical first year of a baby’s life, and help prevent ACEs.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[ORGANIZATION]

cc: Assembly Health Committee, Members, and Staff

 Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, Author

1. DHCS: Approved CHIP SPA # 21-032 (HSI 12-mo. postpartum eligibility), pp. 14-15: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Documents/CHIP-SPA-21-0032-Approval.pdf> at p. 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/surveillance/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CA-PMSS/CA-PMSS-Surveillance-Report-2008-2016.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Slide 34 of CMQCC’s January 27, 2022 presentation to the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Committee of the California Conference of Local Health Officers. Available on request. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho21007.pdf>, pp. 9-10. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)