



**In re: Medicaid Coverage for Post-Childbirth Hospitalization  
(Bill S.1241-Sanders/A.5966-Cook)**

**Memorandum of Support**

Bill S.1241-Sanders/A.5966-Cook would require Medicaid to cover at least 48 hours of inpatient hospital care for mothers and their newborn babies. For mothers who have given birth via caesarian section, the bill would require coverage for a minimum of 96 hours. Mothers and babies who are discharged from the hospital before these time periods have expired would be entitled to coverage for a home care visit upon request. The bill would also require that Medicaid's maternity care coverage include help for new mothers in learning how to feed their babies. This legislation would give Medicaid recipients the same protections that are already provided by law to persons with private insurance coverage.

Bill S.1241-Sanders/A.5966-Cook is important because it would help to prevent mothers and babies on Medicaid from having to leave the hospital for insurance reasons when they are not yet ready to return home. It would also promote the health and well-being of newborn babies, as it would make it more likely for certain health problems to be observed and treated before babies leave the hospital. Passing this legislation is also a matter of fairness, as families receiving Medicaid should not receive medical care that is inferior to the care received by families that are covered by private health insurance.

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms respectfully calls upon the Senate and the Assembly to pass this common-sense bill.