HEALTHY MOMS, STRONG BABIES: Idaho Voices for Children is advancing bold reforms in maternal and infant health policy.

Healthy births are the first step in ensuring babies develop and thrive. Providing women with comprehensive health coverage during and after pregnancy leads to improved preventive care, reductions in maternal mortality rates, and improvements in birth outcomes. Yet Idaho is falling behind in key maternal and infant health trends.

- Idaho’s insurance coverage rates for pregnant and postpartum women with low-incomes rank last in the nation.
- Medicaid coverage for many Idaho women ends at just two months postpartum. Most other states extend coverage for 12 months.
- Over 70% of Idaho infants and toddlers do not receive the recommended number of developmental screenings.
- Almost 22% of Idaho mothers experience postpartum depression in the three months after birth, outpacing the national average of 15%. Over half of these women do not receive depression treatment.
- Idaho’s maternal mortality rate more than doubled from 2019-2020. Every one of the maternal deaths in 2019 were found to be preventable, underscoring the need for consistent health coverage.

With funds raised from the Children’s Champion Luncheon, Idaho Voices for Children will advance a menu of maternal and infant health policy reforms during the 2023 Legislative Session.

The health of Idaho’s future is in our hands. Your support matters.

With a strong advocate, moms and babies can win. As lead health care lobbyists in Idaho and coordinators of a statewide coalition, we are ready to move forward with the next phase of our maternal and infant health policy agenda and promote solutions that accomplish the following:

1. Extend postpartum health coverage for women with low-incomes to a full year after birth;
2. Increase income eligibility levels for children and pregnant women in Medicaid;

To learn more about these policy goals, please contact Hillarie at hhagen@jannus.org.