

Alliance for Patient Access: How Can Washington Invest in Saving Moms?

Josie Cooper

The Alliance for Patient Access (allianceforpatientaccess.org), founded in 2006, is a national network of physicians dedicated to ensuring patient access to approved therapies and appropriate clinical care. AfPA accomplishes this mission by recruiting, training and mobilizing policy-minded physicians to be effective advocates for patient access. AfPA is organized as a non-profit 501(c)(4) corporation and headed by an independent board of directors. Its physician leadership is supported by policy advocacy management and public affairs consultants. In 2012, AfPA established the Institute for Patient Access (IfPA), a related 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. In keeping with its mission to promote a better understanding of the benefits of the physician-patient relationship in the provision of quality healthcare, IfPA sponsors policy research and educational programming.



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Will the new Presidential administration and incoming Congress be able to reduce these disparities? To make progress, they should consider ongoing initiatives as a jumping off point.

Building Upon Existing Efforts

Several federal or state efforts aimed at tackling racial disparities in maternal and infant health have set the groundwork.

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And the National Institutes of Health’s [Pathways to Prevention](#) (5) panel called for a “maternal mortality moonshot” to emphasize investing in bold, systemic reforms.

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Multi-Pronged Investment Opportunities

To continue making progress toward zero maternal deaths, the new administration and Congress would be wise to consider taking the following actions:

- **Expanding access to comprehensive postpartum care:** Prioritize policies that expand Medicaid coverage and extend it beyond the current postpartum period to ensure that mothers, particularly those from underserved racial and ethnic communities, can receive the care they need to prevent complications, and support their physical and mental health.

- **Addressing systemic inequities:** Support provider training programs that emphasize cultural competency and specialize in serving high-need populations.
- **Improving data collection efforts:** Better data can help improve targeting of interventions, so they can be targeted toward moms who need them most.
- **Identifying risk factors:** Invest in research into the contributing factors of disparities, including genetics, access to care and socioeconomic determinants could help to better understand the causes so risks can be minimized.
- **Strengthening community-based solutions:** Provide funding to scale community-based solutions that have been effective in supporting the specific needs of specific communities.

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References:

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[P2P%20program%20brings%20together,and%20suggest%20a%20research%20agenda](#)

Disclosure: Josie Cooper is the Executive Director of the Alliance for Patient Access. This article was also published at healthpolicytoday.org.

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Help Our Youth Share Their Story

The International Children's Advisory Network, Inc. (iCAN) is a worldwide network of children's advisory groups, known as Kids Impacting Disease Through Science (KIDS) and Young Persons Advisory Groups (YPAGS). These dedicated youth member groups work in unison around the world to provide a voice for children and families in medicine, research, and innovation. Every year iCAN hosts a summit that brings these groups together in shared experience and camaraderie. iCAN is a tax exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

We want as many children to come to the summit as possible. However, attending the Summit is not always possible for our families who often experience financial hardships. So iCAN pays for lodging, most food, and a transportation stipend in addition to summit activities. As more youth join iCAN, we need your help more than ever! Your tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 will help bring a child to the Summit, to make it possible for that child to share their voice, and to interact with medical professionals and other kids like them. We will acknowledge you as an individual donor or you may dedicate the donation in honor of a loved one, as you wish.



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