Let’s extend coverage for mothers suffering from mental and behavioral health issues, especially substance abuse.

Here’s why this is important to Missouri moms, children and families:

➢ The Missouri Family Support Division determined that approximately 24,000 women annually lose their MO HealthNet coverage postpartum.
➢ Missouri Hospital Association recently released a report that shows Missouri has seen a 538% increase in babies born addicted to opiates in the last 10 years. Extending postpartum benefits will help families struggling with substance abuse disorder.
➢ Uninsured women and their newborns receive, on average, less prenatal care and fewer perinatal services.
➢ Infants of uninsured women are more likely to die than those of insured women.
➢ 15 percent of women experience perinatal anxiety or depression. Early intervention can translate into lifelong benefits for moms and their kids.
➢ As many as 12% of all pregnant or postpartum women experience depression in a given year, and for low-income women, the prevalence is doubled.
➢ Postpartum depression threatens the mother-child relationship, creating an environment that adversely affects the infant’s development.
➢ NAS, a drug withdrawal syndrome after birth, affects 45-94% of infants born to opioid disorder mothers, results in significant neonatal morbidity and requires the intensive use of health care resources.
➢ Children living in home with substance abusing parent are 2.7 times more likely to be physically or sexually abused and 4.2 times more likely to be neglected than children who do not live with a substance abusing parent.
➢ Missouri law currently cuts off postpartum coverage for Medicaid and Show Me Healthy Babies participants at 60 days postpartum.

Let’s extend coverage for women suffering from substance abuse problems to one year for the Medicaid participants.