

March 2019 Newsletter: GET INVOLVED! Supporting legislation that improves care for mothers and babies in Georgia.

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Have you ever wanted to get more involved in the legislative process? Has advocacy work ever sparked your interest? Becoming involved with advocacy work can be simple and rewarding. Many people can feel intimidated by getting involved with advocacy work and the legislative process and even shy away from it. The thought of it can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to. There is no shortage of issues to get engaged on and your involvement and voice can

have an impact. Your legislators love hearing from you. They want to hear about how you (their constituent) feel about a bill that affects you or someone you care about. Personal stories always go over well and can be impactful. Don't be afraid to discuss your concerns, ask questions or show your support for legislation that they will be voting on. You can ensure that your voice is heard by sending them an email, placing a call to their office or heading down to the capital for an in person meeting. There are many ways for you to lend your voice to important legislative issues impacting Georgians. Remember, **YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

GPA is committed to ensuring that our members, community partners and stakeholders are in the KNOW about important legislation impacting mothers and babies. We are also committed to ensuring that our members are aware of how they can get more involved in the legislative process. Below we have listed information on current legislation being considered at the capital and steps you can take to get more involved with advocacy. Here are a few things you can do today:

1. Get in the KNOW about key legislation. With our partners at HMHB we have compiled a list of legislation being considered at the capital. For a more detailed description please visit

<http://hmhbgga.org/keepingcurrentweekofmarch11/>

Which Senate bills moved forward –

- SB 16 Interstate Medical Act
- SB 56 Consumer Coverage & Protection for Out-of Network Medical Care Act
- SB 106 Patients First Act
- SB 115 Telemedicine Practice

Which House bills moved forward –

- HB 12 Quality Basic Education Act
- HB 26 Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
- HB 62 Margie's Law
- HB 63 Step Therapy Protocols
- HB 84 Consumer Protections Health Insurance
- HB 158 HIV/AIDS Program Access for Medicaid Recipients
- HB 187 Obesity Management pilot Program
- HB 217 Needle Exchange Program
- HB 233 Pharmacy Anti-Steering and Transparency Act
- HB 228 Raise Minimum Age of Marriage

- HB 287 Preceptor Tax Credit
 - HB 290 PrEP Pilot Program at DPH
 - HB 321 Medicaid Financing Program
 - HB 324 Georgia's Hope Act
 - HB 345 Dignity for Incarcerated Women
 - HB 481 Living Infants Fairness and Equality (LIFE) Act
 - HB 514 Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission
2. Get to know who your legislator. They want to hear from their constituents. If you want to find out who your local and state representatives are and let them know you want to see improvements for Georgia's mothers and babies go to openstates.org, and input your address and find your legislator.
 3. Get more involved with advocacy. HMHB is always looking for members who want to further engage in HMHB's advocacy efforts during the session. You can engage by becoming a HMHB Ambassador and joining their advocacy committee. Your involvement will help you understand the policy landscape in Georgia as well as understanding the legislative process. Have questions? You can email them at thecoalition@hmhbga.org

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