# Quality Care for Moms & Babies Act of 2013

## Talking Points

* The Medicaid program covers the cost of 46 percent of births in the U.S. and spends $54 billion annually on maternity and newborn care. Reducing the rates of unnecessary interventions during birth and improving the quality of care to achieve better health outcomes are critical to reducing expenditures under Medicaid.
* The *Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act* (S. 425/H.R. 896), introduced by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D – Mich.) and Chuck Grassley (R – Iowa), and Congressman Eliot Engel (D – N.Y.), would improve the quality of maternity care for mothers and babies by ensuring that maternity care providers have the needed tools to guarantee that women have access to services that optimize outcomes for both mothers and newborns.
* The bill would enhance progress toward a high-quality, cost effective maternity care system by addressing performance measurement gaps in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and by fostering maternity care quality collaboratives – groups of maternity care providers and other stakeholders working together to accelerate the adoption of best practices, such as eliminating elective inductions before 39 weeks, increasing breastfeeding rates, reducing cesarean sections (c-sections) and much more.
* Our nation’s infant and maternal mortality rates are high, and our rates of prematurity, low birth weight babies and exclusive breastfeeding are worse than those of other developed countries.
* While great progress has been made in identifying maternity care best practices and developing associated quality measures, perinatal care can vary by provider and facility. This is in part because numerous measures for maternity and newborn care are not widely adopted and reported.
* The *Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act* would support the development and adoption of quality measures and strengthen multi-disciplinary, health care provider-led state and local efforts to promote best practices, including those in rural areas and small practices.