June 17, 2022

Honorable Kathy Manning  
Cannon House Office Building, Room 415  
Washington, DC 20515-3306

Re: Support for H.R. 6612, the Advancing Maternal Health Equity Under Medicaid Act

Dear Representative Manning,

On behalf of OCHIN, I appreciate the opportunity to offer support for H.R. 6612 which provides a 90% federal matching rate for Medicaid maternal health care spending that exceeds last year’s level. Maternal health, particularly for women with Medicaid coverage, is crucially important as maternal mortality and health complications from giving birth are on the rise. Providing care to the most underserved is essential for improving health equity and advancing legislation to improve maternal health is core to that mission.

OCHIN is a national health information technology and research network that offers technology solutions, informatics, evidence-based research, and policy insights. OCHIN serves nearly 1,000 community health care sites with 21,000 providers in 47 states, reaching more than 6 million patients. For over two decades, OCHIN has advanced equitable health care solutions by leveraging the strength of our network’s unique data set and the practical experience of our members to drive technology innovation for patients and providers in underserved communities.

Severe maternal morbidity (SMM), a general term that covers various unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant health effects to the mother, is a growing concern. SMM has increased more than 200% since 1993 ¹, with SMM being far more common in women of color. Increasing the Medicaid matching rate and including maternal health services such as postpartum telehealth services is crucial in improving health outcomes for all women in America.

The record on maternal health in the U.S. is not encouraging. This bill takes an important step in reversing a troubling trend and we appreciate your leadership. Please contact me at stollj@ochin.org to discuss how OCHIN can support this important mission.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stoll  
Executive Vice President  
External Affairs

¹ [https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/severematernalmorbidity.html](https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/severematernalmorbidity.html)