

**BILL SUMMARY**

# Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act (H.R. 3305/S. 1606)

A BILL TO END PREVENTABLE MATERNAL MORTALITY AND SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CLOSE DISPARITIES IN MATERNAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

## OUR POSITION

Addressing the current Black maternal mortality crisis requires a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team effort focused on reducing disparities and addressing the social determinants of health to help lower the Black maternal mortality rate (MMR). We can also ensure that infants, newborns, and children inherent the benefits of maternal care by addressing the neuro- and sociobiological threats to healthy development by extending maternal care well into the post-partum period.

## HIGHLIGHT OF SUPPORTERS

Sojourners-SojoAction  
Alliance to End Hunger  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nursing  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Heart Association  
American Nurses Association  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
American Psychological Association  
Association of Black Women Physicians  
Black Mamas Matter Alliance  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Mental Health America  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Rural Health Association  
National WIC Association  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Rural Nurse Organization  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Church of Christ Justice and Local Church Ministries  
ZERO TO THREE

## LEAD SPONSORS

**Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14)**  
**Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12)**  
**Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)**

## CURRENT SPONSORS:\*

**House:** 193  
**Senate:** 32

\*as of 03.01.24

## WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO:

This historic legislation—made up of thirteen bills sponsored by Black Maternal Health Caucus Members—will save moms’ lives and address every driver of maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities in the United States. If enacted, it would:

- Make critical investments in social determinants of health that influence maternal health outcomes, like housing, transportation, and nutrition;
- Extend WIC eligibility in the postpartum and breastfeeding periods;
- Provide funding to community-based organizations working to improve maternal health outcomes and promote equity;
- Increase funding for programs to improve maternal health care for veterans;
- Grow and diversify the perinatal workforce to ensure that every mom in America receives maternal health care and support from people they trust;
- Improve data collection processes and quality measures to better understand the causes of the maternal health crisis in the United States and inform solutions to address it;
- Support moms with maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders.
- Improve maternal health care and support for incarcerated moms;
- Invest in digital tools to improve maternal health outcomes in underserved areas;
- Promote innovative payment models to incentivize high-quality maternity care and non-clinical support during and after pregnancy;
- Invest in federal programs to address maternal and infant health risks during public health emergencies;
- Invest in community-based initiatives to reduce levels of exposure to climate change-related risks for moms and babies.; and,
- Promote maternal vaccinationsto protect the health of moms and babies.

## WHY CONGRESS SHOULD ENACT THIS LEGISLATION:

- Scripture tells us to "if one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy." 1 Corinthians 12:26. This verse teaches us that this maternal health crisis matters for everyone because we are one body in Christ. It is a call for us to honor women and families impacted by this crisis by doing our part to decrease the risk pregnancy and childbirth pose to women;
- The Black maternal health crisis is exposing cracks in our maternal and newborn care system. Addressing these fundamental issues creates a baseline system of care that benefits all women and children in the United States;
- A Black mother with a college education is at 60 percent greater risk for maternal death than a white or Hispanic woman with less than a high school education. While socioeconomic stability is normally a protective factor, race still plays the deciding role in maternal life and death;
- In the United States, approximately 700 women die each year as a result of pregnancy or delivery complications. An additional 50,000 women each year face short or long-term severe consequences to their health as an outcome of pregnancy or labor;
- In 2021, 1,205 women died in the United States as a result of pregnancy or delivery complications, a 40 percent increase from 2020;
- That same year, the maternal death ratio for Black women (69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births) is nearly times the ratio for white women (26.6 deaths per 100,00 live births) and for Hispanic women (28.0);
- Addressing social determinants is especially important for reducing rates of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity for Black mothers;
- Infant mortality rates for America’s Black babies are more than twice the rate of white babies; and,
- Addressing this crisis is an opportunity for the United States to address the persistent and destructive impact of institutional, historic, and systemic racism on Black women.

## ASSOCIATION CONTACT

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