



Kira Johnson Act

Rep. Alma Adams

Sen. Raphael Warnock

BACKGROUND

On April 12th, 2016, Kira Johnson checked into a hospital with her husband Charles to give birth to their second child, Langston. Kira – an entrepreneur, world traveler, mother of one healthy boy already, and a Black woman – did not make it out alive. Despite being in excellent health, Kira died from a hemorrhage approximately 12 hours after delivering Langston. Kira deserved better, and so do the Black mothers across the United States who are dying at disproportionately high rates.⁶

The **Kira Johnson Act** makes investments in community-based organizations that are leading the charge to support moms. The bill also supports bias and racism training programs, research, and the establishment of Respectful Maternity Care Compliance Programs to address bias and racism, and to promote accountability in maternity care settings.

BILL SUMMARY

The **Kira Johnson Act** will:

1. Establish a fund to provide **robust funding directly to community-based organizations working to advance maternal health equity**. The funding, which will be available specifically and exclusively for community-based organizations.
2. Provide funding for grant programs to implement and study **consistent bias, racism, and discrimination trainings for all employees in maternity care settings**.
3. Provide funding to **establish Respectful Maternity Care Compliance Programs** within hospitals to provide mechanisms for pregnant and postpartum patients to report instances of disrespect or evidence of racial, ethnic, or other types of bias and promote accountability.

ENDORSEMENTS

Find a list of cosponsors [here](#), and a list of organizations that have endorsed the Act [here](#).

If you have any questions, or would like to cosponsor, please contact us at:
BlackMaternalHealthCaucus@mail.house.gov

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths](#)