



Perinatal Workforce Act

Rep. Gwen Moore

Sen. Tammy Baldwin

BACKGROUND

One driving force of the U.S. maternal health crisis is a lack of access to maternity care, and to culturally congruent maternity care and support specifically. More than 1,000 American counties are “maternity care deserts,” with no hospitals offering obstetric care and zero obstetric providers, and more than 2.2 million women of childbearing age live in maternity care deserts.¹¹ Women in maternity care deserts are more likely to have asthma and hypertension than women in counties with full access to maternity care,¹² putting them at greater risk for pregnancy complications and pregnancy-related death.¹³

One solution to this glaring shortage is to grow and diversify the perinatal health workforce. The **Perinatal Workforce Act** makes historic investments to increase the number of maternity care providers and non-clinical perinatal health workers who offer culturally congruent care and support during and after pregnancy.

BILL SUMMARY

The **Perinatal Workforce Act** will:

1. Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to (1) provide guidance to states on the promotion of racially, ethnically, and professionally **diverse maternity care teams** and (2) to study how **culturally congruent maternity care** promotes better outcomes for moms, especially in communities of color.
2. Provide funding to **establish and scale programs that will grow and diversify the maternal health clinical and non-clinical workforce**, increasing the number of nurses, midwives, physician assistants, doulas, and other perinatal health workers who moms can trust throughout their pregnancies, labor and delivery, and the postpartum period.
3. Study the **barriers that prevent women – particularly from underserved communities – from entering maternity care professions** and receiving equitable compensation.

COSPONSERS AND 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

¹¹ March of Dimes: [Nowhere To Go](#)

¹² March of Dimes: [Nowhere To Go](#)

¹³ CDC: [Hypertensive Disorders in Pregnancy and Mortality at Delivery Hospitalization](#)