

Maternal Health Pandemic Response Act

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More Resources:



BACKGROUND

In the face of public health emergencies, pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding individuals are uniquely vulnerable and at increased risk for adverse maternal health outcomes. An October 2022 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that maternal health outcomes worsened significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), GAO found that COVID-19 contributed to 25 percent of maternal deaths in 2020 and 2021 – and the number of maternal deaths in 2021 was nearly 80 percent higher than the number in 2018. The maternal mortality rate increased by more than 50 percent for Black women and more than 100 percent by Hispanic women from 2019 to 2021.²

The **Maternal Health Pandemic Response Act** makes key investments and advances comprehensive strategies to address maternal health risks during public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic, now and in the future.

BILL SUMMARY

The **Maternal Health Pandemic Response Act** will:

1. Authorize robust funding for federal programs that support **maternal and infant health during public health emergencies**: the Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies Program, Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
2. **Improve maternal health data collection, reporting, and transparency standards** during public health emergencies.
3. Support **public health education campaigns** on providing safe maternity care during public health emergencies.
4. Establish a **task force on birthing experiences and safe, respectful maternity care** during public health emergencies.

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