BACKGROUND

In the richest nation on earth, moms are dying at the highest rate in the developed world – and the rate is rising. For as dire as the situation is overall, the crisis is most severe for Black moms in the U.S., who are dying at 3 to 4 times the rate of their white counterparts, and other women and birthing people of color. To address this crisis, Representatives Lauren Underwood & Alma Adams, Senator Cory Booker, and Members of the Black Maternal Health Caucus are introducing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. The Momnibus builds on existing legislation like 12-month postpartum Medicaid coverage to comprehensively address every dimension of the maternal health crisis in the United States.

BILL SUMMARY

The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 is composed of twelve individual bills sponsored by Black Maternal Health Caucus Members. The legislation will:

1. Make critical investments in social determinants of health that influence maternal health outcomes, like housing, transportation, and nutrition.
2. Provide funding to community-based organizations that are working to improve maternal health outcomes and promote equity.
3. Comprehensively study the unique maternal health risks facing pregnant and postpartum veterans and support VA maternity care coordination programs.
4. Grow and diversify the perinatal workforce to ensure that every mom in America receives culturally congruent maternity care and support.
5. 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.
6. Support moms with maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders.
7. Improve maternal health care and support for incarcerated moms.
8. Invest in digital tools like telehealth to improve maternal health outcomes in underserved areas.
9. Promote innovative payment models to incentivize high-quality maternity care and continuity of insurance coverage from pregnancy through labor and delivery and up to 1 year postpartum.
10. Invest in federal programs to address the unique risks for and effects of COVID-19 during and after pregnancy and to advance respectful maternity care in future public health emergencies.
11. Invest in community-based initiatives to reduce levels of and exposure to climate change-related risks for moms and babies.
12. Promote maternal vaccinations to protect the health and safety of moms and babies.
Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021
Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14)
Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)

ORIGINAL COSPONSORS

House of Representatives: Alma S. Adams; Ro Khanna; Nydia M. Velázquez; Lucy McBath; Adam Smith; Mary Gay Scanlon; André Carson; Al Lawson; Jahana Hayes; G. K. Butterfield; Joyce Beatty; Gwen Moore; Marilyn Strickland; Mike Doyle; Ilhan Omar; Katherine Clark; Tim Ryan; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.; Adam B. Schiff; Hank Johnson; Steven Horsford; Terri A. Sewell; Lisa Blunt Rochester; Debbie Wasserman Schultz; Nanette Diaz Barragán; Yvette D. Clarke; Ted Deutch; Donald M. Payne, Jr.; Gregory W. Meeks; Betty McCollum; Eleanor Holmes Norton; Thomas R. Suozzi; Diana DeGette; Earl Blumenauer; Angie Craig; Lois Frankel; Seth Moulton; Darren Soto; Jerrold Nadler; David Trone; Elaine Luria; John P. Sarbanes; Abigail Davis Spanberger; Jackie Speier; Eddie Bernice Johnson; Cheri Bustos; Danny K. Davis; Jan Schakowsky; Jamaal Bowman; Sharice L. Davids; Kim Schrier, M.D.; Alcee L. Hastings; Karen Bass; Bonnie Watson Coleman; Barbara Lee; Chrissy Houlahan; Ayanna Pressley; Steve Cohen; Colin Allred; Dwight Evans; Cori Bush; Jason Crow; Cathy Castor; Judy Chu; Rashida Tlaib; Gerald E. Connolly; Sara Jacobs; Val Demings; Ami Bera, M.D.; Ann McLane Kuster; Norma J. Torres; Paul Tonko; Lizzie Fletcher; Sheila Jackson Lee; Jerry McNerney; Chellie Pingree; Greg Stanton; Mondaire Jones, Susan Wild; and Jamie Raskin.

Senate: Tammy Duckworth; Kirsten E. Gillibrand; Richard J. Durbin; Tim Kaine; Robert P. Casey, Jr.; Gary C. Peters; and Jeff Merkley.

ENDORSEMENTS

The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 is endorsed by 191 organizations, listed here. Quotes in support of the Momnibus can be found here.

CONTACT

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