



Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021

Quotes in Support

A Better Balance: “At A Better Balance, through our free and confidential legal helpline, we see the systemic racism and inequality Black women face day in and day out, as we work to ensure they can maintain their health and economic security during pregnancy and motherhood. This has only been brought into sharper relief during the pandemic as we see Black pregnant people facing higher rates of exposure to the virus, often due to systemic discrimination, including in the workplace. Thanks to Rep. Underwood's and Rep. Adams' leadership, the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 is the bold and multi-faceted solution this country urgently needs to help address the crisis head on.” - Sarah Brafman, Director of the D.C. Office & Senior Policy Counsel, A Better Balance

Abide Women’s Health Services: “Abide Women’s Health Services is proud to support the Momnibus because of its holistic solutions that would addresses the inequities in the Black birthing experience in America today.” - Abide Women’s Health Services

African American Breastfeeding Network: “The African American Breastfeeding Network Inc. supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act because maternal stress kills women and cause prematurity. Innovations in maternity care practices and support of community-based doula programs are central and essential to improving maternal health.” - Dalvery Blackwell, Executive Director, Co-Founder, African American Breastfeeding Network

Alliance for the Implementation of Clinical Practice Guidelines: “The Alliance is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act because the time is right to put black mothers, the Chief Healthcare Officers of their home, first.” - Alliance for the Implementation of Clinical Practice Guidelines

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments: “As nurses we applaud the introduction of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. The causes of the high maternal mortality rates experienced by Black women in this country are complex and we need a comprehensive approach that includes addressing systemic racism, environmental exposures, and social determinants of health in order to ensure health inequities are adequately addressed. This Act is a great step in addressing maternal health disparities in the United States.” - Katie Huffling, Nurse-Midwife and Executive Director, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Academy of Family Physicians: “Caring for families starts with giving moms and their babies the best possible start in life. Family physicians are a key part of that care every day, and it has become even more important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Academy of Family Physicians proudly supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021, legislation which helps address the



health disparities and poor outcomes that women of color continue to experience in the United States.”
- Ada Stewart, MD, President, American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Nursing: “The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) strongly affirms our commitment to the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. As one of the richest countries in the world, it is shocking to see the persistent negative health outcomes our nation's mothers face pre-, during, and post-birth. And we know our Black and Brown mothers are hit the hardest. This is unacceptable. The Academy, in partnership with the members of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, seeks to improve health and health equity by promoting policies, backed by nursing leaders, innovators, and scientists, that dismantle the racist components of our current maternal health care to create a better future for our mothers.” - Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN, President. American Academy of Nursing

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: “The rates of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity for Black women in the United States are unacceptable and, alarmingly, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, those rates could be worsening. The Black Maternal Health Momnibus directly addresses the stark racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes through a wide-ranging set of bills that elevate the voices, needs, and preferences of Black birthing persons and aim to improve maternal health. ACOG is proud to endorse the Momnibus and we are grateful to the Black Maternal Health Caucus, under the leadership of Representatives Underwood and Adams, for its partnership. The provisions addressing implicit bias and racism in medicine remain a critical part of our work to provide high-quality, respectful care to all patients and improve maternal health outcomes. We are pleased to see that this important legislation has now been expanded to address the unique risks and effects of COVID-19 during and after pregnancy through surveillance, data collection, and research. Additionally, the bill advances maternal vaccinations—a critical public health tool amid the pandemic—and invests in community-based initiatives to address the impacts of climate change on obstetric outcomes. During this crisis, there is no time to waste. We look forward to continuing our work together to advance meaningful legislation that can help save lives.” - Maureen Phipps, MD, MPH, FACOG, Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Nurses Association: “Inequities, racial biases and discrimination in health care have led to women of color across all education and socioeconomic statuses having their medical issues ignored and dying in childbirth at alarmingly higher rates. ANA applauds the robust approach in this legislation to fund community organizations, bolster telehealth solutions, establish incentive payment models and diversify the perinatal workforce, which includes registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses. I want to thank all of the Members of Congress who have worked tirelessly on these important pieces of legislation. I want to extend a special thank you to my fellow nurse, Congresswoman Underwood, for her unwavering commitment to meaningful change through policy. ANA urges Congress to swiftly pass this bill.” - President Ernest J. Grant PhD, RN, FAAN, President, American Nurses Association (ANA)



American Psychological Association: “I am proud to offer the American Psychological Association's support of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. We have seen for too long the injuries and deaths of Black women shortly after giving birth. Psychological science shows us that, in the health care system, a Black person’s pain is not taken as seriously as a White person’s pain, and that women’s pain is not taken as seriously as men’s pain. That needs to be addressed, and this bill is a step toward improving outcomes for Black mothers and their babies. The priorities outlined in this legislation align closely with those of APA’s Presidential Task Force on Psychology and Health Equity. Health equity is critical at this moment in our history, and Black mothers cannot be left behind.” - Jennifer F. Kelly, PhD, President, American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association: “The American Public Health Association applauds the reintroduction of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, which addresses the unacceptable disparities in maternal health outcomes for Black mothers and babies. This legislation addresses the need to improve Black maternal health by addressing its root causes, including social determinants, workforce inadequacies and poor data collection. This package improves upon its former iteration with additions to mitigate the impact of climate change on Black moms, to learn how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted maternal health outcomes and to boost confidence in vaccines for pregnant people. Passage of the Momnibus is an integral step towards achieving health equity and creating the healthiest nation in one generation.” – American Public Health Association

Ancient Song Doula Services: “Ancient Song Doula Services is proud to support the Momnibus Act in its entirety because the Momnibus Act centers Black birthing bodes in equity and accountability that uplifts not only the patient but the community-based organizations providing the services. Allowing for sustainability within Black communities and building towards a future were our collective humanity is celebrated by creating a meaningful now.” - Chanel L. Porchia-Albert Founder and CEO, Ancient Song Doula Services

Arkansas Birthing Project: “The Arkansas Birthing Project is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2020 Because we believe Black Women's Lives matter!” - Zenobia Harris, Arkansas Birthing Project

Association of American Medical Colleges: “The AAMC applauds the work of Representatives Adams and Underwood, Senator Booker, and the Black Maternal Health Caucus to introduce the Black Maternal Health Momnibus of 2021, which takes a critical step toward not only preventing maternal deaths, but also addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum patients. The maternal death rate in the U.S. is indefensible, and it is clear that action is needed to coordinate a response to this national crisis. Academic medicine has led a number of initiatives to improve maternal health, but a multipronged approach involving multisector partnerships is key to addressing these issues. The Momnibus aims to help fill in gaps at the federal level to address social determinants of health, promote a diverse and culturally competent workforce, improve clinical care for patients of color, invest in promising tools and new payment models to transform and improve the quality of maternal health care, and address the unique needs of perinatal patients during a public health crisis.



The AAMC looks forward to continuing to work with the Black Maternal Health Caucus to address the maternal health crisis in this country, and to better serve our patients and communities.” – Karen Fisher, Chief Public Policy Officer, Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Black Cardiologists: “The ABC applauds Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, Congresswoman Alma Adams and Senator Cory Booker for using the full weight of elected office to improve maternal health and eliminate racial inequities through the introduction of The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. African American women are three to four times more likely to die a pregnancy-related death as compared with Caucasian women. Peripartum cardiomyopathy contributes to 23 percent of maternal deaths; embolic events, hemorrhage, and hypertension are also major contributors. In 2020, the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) hosted the Black Maternal Heart Health Roundtable, a collaborative task force of diverse stakeholders and champions of maternal health equity to discuss the dissemination and implementation of innovative solutions presented in a paper led by Dr. Rachel Bond. Solving the Black maternal health crisis requires every corner of the stakeholder community coming together. The Black Maternal Health Caucus has played an indispensable role in this regard, and ABC is proud to serve as a collaborator.” — Michelle A. Albert, MD, President, Association of Black Cardiologists

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs: “AMCHP commends the Black Maternal Health Caucus on its reintroduction of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. As leaders in maternal and child public health, AMCHP’s members know that there is not a singular magic policy solution that will solve the crisis of maternal mortality or eliminate the significant racial inequities that exist. We are grateful to the Caucus leadership for introducing a comprehensive package of bills that together can help us improve maternal health outcomes in all communities in the U.S. We appreciate the addition of several provisions to the Momnibus this year to address maternal and infant health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as to improve rates of routine maternal and childhood vaccination. Further, we applaud the deliberate decision to disrupt systemic inequities in our policymaking and funding processes to ensure solutions are generated and implemented by the expertise of Black women and community-led and trusted organizations.” - Jonathan Webb, CEO, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses: “Nurses make up the largest profession in the healthcare workforce and spend the most time with patients. AWHONN continues to research and develop guidelines and education for the nursing workforce so that every mother has a healthy birth. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Rep. Lauren Underwood, Rep. Alma Adams and the other members of the Black Maternal Health Caucus for their leadership in drafting and introducing the 12 bills of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus. These bills align with our agenda of reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, improving the health status of women, addressing racial health disparities and structural and social determinants of health, and resolving health inequities contributing to these issues.” - Cyndy Krening, MS, CNS, RNC-OB, C-EFM, President, Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses.



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America: “The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of American (AAFA) is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. Asthma disproportionately impacts Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous Americans. It is one of the most common chronic conditions that can complicate pregnancy. Social determinants and structural inequities drive persistent health disparities, especially for Black mothers. We are encouraged to see meaningful legislation aimed at addressing the maternal health crisis in the U.S. which is disproportionately impacting Black women and their families. We thank Representative Underwood, Representative Adams, and Senator Booker for their leadership and look forward to working in partnership with the many supporting organizations of the Momnibus Act.” – Kenneth Mendez, President & CEO, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative: "Our organization wholeheartedly supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. Our society subjects Black women to abuse, neglect, and violence at home, at work, and on the street. The dehumanization and demoralization often continues in a doctor's office or hospital. This legislation will help ensure that Black women are treated with dignity and respect during some of their most vulnerable moments." - Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative

Black Mamas Matter Alliance: “Black Mamas Matter Alliance is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Caucus in the introduction of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. By centering Black women-led organizations like BMMA in the process, this package takes a proactive approach to addressing many of the systematic public health challenges, workforce development issues, and everyday experiences of Black birthing persons before, during, and after pregnancy. BMMA is in support of the BMHC taking a step forward to addressing the impact of the COVID Pandemic on Black pregnant and birthing people. Thank you to the Black Maternal Health Caucus for prioritizing the needs of those most impacted by the maternal health crisis in the United States.” - Angela Aina, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Black Mamas Matter Alliance

BreastfeedLA: “BreastfeedLA is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. BreastfeedLA stands in solidarity with those oppressed and all who work hard each day to disrupt behaviors, policies and systems built with bias, racism, and oppression at their core. We remain determined to stay courageous, committed, and empowered to dismantle systemic and historical racism. We aim to close the gap on infant feeding disparities, increase breast/chest feeding rates among the most vulnerable populations, scale up the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) profession to reflect the landscape of our diverse community, and create clinical training opportunities for more Black, Indigenous, People of Color to shatter the historical barriers that have intentionally been put in place.” - BreastfeedLA

California Nurse-Midwives Association: “The California Nurse-Midwives Association is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus in its entirety, and we remain fiercely optimistic partners in the work toward eliminating racial disparities in maternity care--and in all types of healthcare!” – California Nurse-Midwives Association

Center for American Progress: “The maternal health crisis, which disproportionately harms Black, as well as Indigenous, birthing people has gone ignored and persisted for decades. As the nation seeks to



reckon with racial injustices and the coronavirus pandemic that has exposed inequities in the U.S. health care system, the time is now to address maternal health inequities. Black birthing people and their families can no longer wait. The Momnibus is a comprehensive response to the problem – tackling health care access, quality of care, social determinants of health and more. We applaud Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, Congresswoman Alma Adams and the rest of the Black Maternal Health Caucus for their thoughtful and intentional leadership in advancing health equity." - Jamille Fields Allsbrook, Director of Women's Health and Rights, Center for American Progress

Center for Reproductive Rights: "This bill package is critical and long overdue. It's unacceptable that mothers in the U.S. are dying at one of the highest rates of any developed country, and those mothers are largely Black and Indigenous. The Momnibus signals to Black and Indigenous birthing people that they will not be left behind any longer— not in this pandemic, not ever. Congress must act now to pass this much-needed legislation." - Jennifer Jacoby, Federal Policy Counsel, Center for Reproductive Rights

Centering Healthcare Institute: "Centering Healthcare Institute is proud to endorse this comprehensive legislative effort to address the Black maternal health crisis in our country. Inherent in the Centering model is the principle that we must breakdown power differentials and elevate lived experiences to deliver equitable healthcare. The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 provides several provisions, including the Moms Matter, Kira Johnson and Perinatal Workforce acts, that would significantly advance the effort to mainstream and resource equitable healthcare, and most importantly, save lives." - Angie Truesdale, CEO, Centering Healthcare Institute

Childbirth Survival International: "Childbirth Survival International (CSI) is proud to support the Momnibus and every individual bill because of the critical importance and urgency to intentionally and adequately invest in black women's health and black maternal health in the US. The United States of America is the only developed country with unacceptable maternal mortality and morbidity rates mirroring several developing countries that don't have the highly advanced healthcare system that we see in the US. Policies, programs, and leadership in the US have to realign to break down racial and systemic barriers in health, education, and economic empowerment (financial independence) disproportionately affecting the health and well-being of black women and their families. The Momnibus and every individual bill are fundamental roadmaps for states, local health departments, and community-based organizations to advance policies and scale up evidence-based programs to improve maternal health literacy, services, and access especially for black women." – Childbirth Survival International

Department of Ob/Gyn at Penn Medicine: "The Department of Ob/Gyn for Penn Medicine supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. We support the many levers included in this bill to reduce the unacceptably high rates of racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes and to improve care for all women." - Department of Ob/Gyn at Penn Medicine

Diversity Uplifts, Inc.: "Evidence shows that cultural congruency between providers and clients/patients can improve engagement, cultural safety and positive outcomes. Diversity Uplifts, Inc. agrees with the



Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act 2020, that growing and diversifying the perinatal workforce is essential to improving the maternal health care system in America.” - Diversity Uplifts, Inc.

Doula Philosophy: “We at Doula Philosophy proudly support the Momnibus Act because we realize as doulas that community-based support from the very beginning is vital to the well-being of families and to the growth of the next generation of leaders, thinkers and doers.” - Adriana Jean Louis, Doula Philosophy

Dr. Jamila Taylor: “I’m proud to continue the important work of centering Black mothers in the national response to America’s maternal health crisis. The fierce leadership of Representatives Lauren Underwood, Alma Adams, and the rest of the Black Maternal Health Caucus has made me more hopeful than ever that we will see real, lasting change with this year’s introduction of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus. I stand ready to do all that I can to support this landmark legislative package.” – Dr. Jamila Taylor

Dr. Melissa Simon: “Dr. Melissa Simon from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Director of the Center for Health Equity Transformation is proud to support the forward thinking and much needed Black Maternal Health Momnibus because maternal mortality disparities in the US are egregious and preventable, and it is time that we as a nation collectively ban together and support health in all policies that focus on ensuring that all birthing persons have an equitable opportunity to have healthy pregnancies and births and ‘happily-ever-after’ outcomes.” – Dr. Melissa Simon, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Center for Health Equity Transformation

Dr. Shalon’s Maternal Action Project: “Dr. Shalon’s Maternal Action Project (DSMAP) is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 because it ensures that pregnant and postpartum black women receive safe and anti-racist maternal care. If the Momnibus Act had been in place in 2017, my daughter, Dr. Shalon, would still be alive today, nurturing her only daughter and working to dismantle inequities.” - Wanda Irving, Chairman, Dr. Shalon’s Maternal Action Project

EverThrive Illinois: “The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act is a vital and bold policy move in the right direction to address the ongoing maternal mortality crisis in the U.S. This comprehensive bill recognizes the impact of systemic racism, our ongoing pandemic response, and climate change on the health and safety of communities. EverThrive Illinois is proud to stand behind Congresswoman Lauren Underwood and the Momnibus Act in its ability to promote maternal health and, most importantly, protect Black lives.” - Chi Chi Okwu, Executive Director of EverThrive Illinois

Every Body Texas: “Texas has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the U.S. If Texas were a country, it would have the highest maternal mortality rate in the developed world. And Black moms, regardless of education or income, are at the greatest risk of maternal death in Texas. The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act will bring the attention and investment needed to begin addressing this crisis and Every Body Texas is proud to support this important legislative initiative.” – Every Body Texas

Every Mother Counts: “Today, women are more likely to die in childbirth than their mothers were a generation ago. As a mother myself, this cannot be the legacy we are passing down to our daughters.



Every Mother Counts supports passing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus to ensure a better future for all our moms and children.” - Christy Turlington Burns, Founder, Every Mother Counts

Federation of American Hospitals: “It is urgent that we address the maternal health crisis in America, particularly for Black moms, who face significantly greater risk of negative health outcomes - including death - before, during, and after pregnancy. This historic legislation from Representatives Underwood and Adams, Senator Booker, and members of the Black Maternal Health Caucus advances the multi-pronged approach necessary to save our moms by investing in social determinants of health, improving maternal health outcomes, and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities. FAH is proud to support The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021.” - Chip Kahn, President and CEO, Federation of American Hospitals

Grandmother for Reproductive Rights GRR! “Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights GRR! is honored to be able to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus.” - Julia G. Kahrl, Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights GRR!

Happy Family Organics: “Happy Family Organics is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act because we believe every birthing parent, regardless of race or ethnicity, deserves support and proper care throughout pregnancy and the birth of their child. As a company whose mission is to change the trajectory of children’s health through nutrition, we believe prioritizing the health and well-being of every birthing parent is foundational to that goal.” - Anne Laraway, Happy Family Organics

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS): “The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is pleased to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021, which closely aligns with the HIMSS vision to realize the full health potential of every human, everywhere. The maternal mortality crisis is unacceptable, and we must prioritize reducing these preventable pregnancy-related deaths. HIMSS applauds the Momnibus package’s proactive use of efforts to implement information and technology to improve maternal health outcomes and end racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health care.” Denise Hines, DHA, PMP, FHIMSS, Chief Americas Officer, HIMSS

HealthConnect One: “We believe that birth justice is the most fundamental form of racial justice, as it is the start of life. When poor birth outcomes occur, opportunities to thrive never emerge or are delayed by profound loss or severe illness. The situation is even more dire for the United States Black community, with Black women 3 times more likely to die in pregnancy and childbirth than their white counterparts. Yet interventions exist, approximately two-thirds of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, underscoring the need for more community-centered interventions and research to improve women's maternal health outcomes before, during, and after delivery. For this reason, HealthConnect One is proud to support the historic Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. Our communities make the United States stronger, and supporting birth equity makes these communities stronger and is the right thing to do.” - Dr. Twylla Dillion, Executive Director of HealthConnect One



Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i: "Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus because even here in paradise Black birthing people have the worst birth disparities compared to all other groups. Black infants have the highest mortality rate. So no matter where you go, black women and their babies are in crisis due to structural racism and inequity. We have to do something on a National scale. This is how we do it!" - Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i

HealthyWomen: "HealthWomen is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. This Act seeks to address the critical needs and challenges facing too many moms in our country. As the richest nation in the world, the United States should not have the highest maternal mortality rate in the world, particularly among Black moms. HealthyWomen believes that through the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 we can address the root causes that influence maternal health outcomes and provide critical investment to improve quality of care, save lives and end racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes." - HealthyWomen

Hustle Mommies: "The Hustle Mommies is happy to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act as we are happy to see a law that is a reflection of Black mothers from all social classes who are in need of protection when it comes to their health. As we fight for urban mothers and their families, we are dedicated to Black maternal health as we understand that Black moms' voices are too often silenced when it comes to their healthcare." - Ariel DeNey Rainey, Founder and CEO of Hustle Mommies

Illinois Health and Hospital Association: "IHA is pleased to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021, and applauds Rep. Underwood's dedication to ending racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes. In Illinois, non-Hispanic Black women are six times as likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition as non-Hispanic White women. Illinois hospitals and health systems are working every day to make meaningful progress in addressing the complex and challenging root causes of this crisis, and we are grateful to have Rep. Underwood as a partner in advancing this critical priority." -A.J. Wilhelmi, President & CEO of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda: "In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda is proud to support the Momnibus. We are particularly enthusiastic about the Black Maternal Health Momnibus. Black women are 3-4 times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than their white counterparts. The Momnibus is a comprehensive approach to addressing some of the most pressing needs and experiences of Black pregnant people and their babies." - Marcela Howell, Founder and President, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda.

Ingram Screening, LLC: "Ingram Screening for Perinatal Mental Health is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act because maternal morbidity for BIPOC is 3 to 4 times higher than white mothers and it is unacceptable." - Lynn Ingram McFarland, MBA, PMH-C, Ingram Screening, LLC

Irth/Narrative Nation, Inc.: "The dismal maternal health outcomes in the U.S., including the unconscionably high rates of Black maternal and infant deaths, deserve a holistic, multi-pronged



approach, that centers the lived experience of care and addresses the social determinants of health, and the racism and bias in the medical system that disproportionately harms Black and brown women and birthing people. We can do better and the Momnibus bill is a critical step!” - Irth/Narrative Nation, Inc.

Lamaze International: “Lamaze International is pleased to continue to support the Black Maternal Health Caucus’ Momnibus, which would improve U.S. maternal and childbirth outcomes and reduce U.S. maternal mortality rates that disproportionately affect Black women. The Momnibus would increase access to comprehensive and quality prenatal services such as evidence-based childbirth education, which empowers women to make informed birth choices, encourages parents to initiate birth-preference discussions with their care teams, and decreases rates of unnecessary birth procedures. Lamaze International proudly supports and applauds the Black Maternal Health Caucus for their leadership on this critical issue and looks forward future policy opportunities to increase access to Lamaze childbirth education.” – Lamaze International

Majaica: “This is a pivotal moment in the quest for birth equity so that ALL mothers and the babies they bare are healthy. The Momnibus Bill ensures that we have the resources and supports needed to reach our destination.” - Majaica

Mama Glow: “Mama Glow is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act because we believe every birthing person deserves a right to safety, dignity, and birth equity.” - Latham Thomas, founder Mama Glow

Mamatoto Village: "Mamatoto Village is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, which aims to improve U.S. maternal and childbirth outcomes and advance maternal health equity for Black womxn. We want to thank the Black Maternal Health Caucus for addressing the gaps in our healthcare system and focusing on areas that will transform Black maternal health. It is increasingly clear that we need more investment to adequately address social determinants and underserved populations such as womxn veterans and incarcerated womxn; provide support to community-based programs to thrive, and diversify the perinatal workforce. This legislation will offer sustainable and transformative solutions that are long overdue." - Aza Nedhari, Mamatoto Village

March of Dimes: “We commend the Caucus Co-Chairs, Representatives Alma Adams and Lauren Underwood, and Senator Cory Booker, for playing a galvanizing role to bring greater attention to the health disparities facing Black mothers, by introducing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. Black women are dying at higher rates than all other races, which is unacceptable. Almost two-thirds of maternal deaths are preventable. Now is the time to enact policies that will eliminate disparities and improve health outcomes for women of color.” - Stacey D. Stewart, President & CEO, March of Dimes

MATCH Coalition: “The Maternal Applications of Technology for Community Health (MATCH) Coalition is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. This important legislation makes critical changes to improve health outcomes and end disparities in maternal care by expanding access to



digital health tools and telehealth solutions for pregnant and postpartum women and promoting research and education.” - Fran Ayalasomayajula, Co-Chair, MATCH Coalition

Mental Health America: “Mental Health America strongly supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and particularly the focus on improving Black maternal mental health. In May 2020, two months into the pandemic, the highest jump in people experiencing thoughts of suicide who took an MHA screening were Black or African American screeners. When Black moms and babies have better mental health care the community fares better and we applaud the sponsors for introducing such important and urgently needed legislation.” – Mental Health America

Mom Congress: “Mom Congress is a proud supporter the Black Maternal Health Momnibus. The maternal health crisis that Black mothers face in America must be addressed at every level. Thank you, Congresswoman Underwood, for your continued leadership.” – Mom Congress

Mom2Mom Downers Grove: “Mom2Mom Downers Grove is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus, as it is long overdue and essential to improving health outcomes for black mothers and babies in Illinois.” - Lara Vazquez, Mom2Mom Downers Grove

Moms Clean Air Force: "With the introduction today of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021, Congress has taken a major step forward in addressing the enormous and unjust health disparities faced by Black women before, during and after pregnancy. This Act, if signed into law, will transform the lives of Black mothers and babies for the better. That alone would make this a landmark moment, but this Act also acknowledges and seeks to rectify the harm caused by climate change to Black mothers. Heat waves and extreme weather events are just two examples of how climate change can harm pregnant moms and their babies, and this bill will direct funding to Black communities to explicitly address these challenges. Moms Clean Air Force applauds Representative Underwood and Senator Markey for prioritizing the health of Black mothers, and for recognizing climate change as the serious health threat that it is. We now urge Members of Congress to join in this effort to make racial inequities in pregnancy and childbirth a thing of the past." - Trisha Dellolacono, Legislative Manager, Moms Clean Air Force

MomsRising: “In the richest country in the entire world, Black women are dying at outrageous proportions because of systematic disparities and implicit bias in the health care system. The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act offers much needed investment in addressing the urgent crisis of Black maternal health, while affirming the simple fact that Black women deserve to enjoy pregnancy without the fear of dying due to failures in our health care system. We absolutely cannot wait. The science is clear: Congress must act immediately to protect our mothers.” - Tina Sherman, Senior Campaign Director for Maternal Justice, MomsRising.

Mothering Justice: "Mothering Justice is proud to support the Black Maternal Momnibus Act because it seeks to address the root cause of inequities black mothers face in America's inadequate and failing healthcare system. We must protect our black women and mothers by ensuring equitable access to



quality maternity care. The Black Maternal Momnibus Act is critical because racial and health disparities in our country are devastating our black families and communities.” – Mothering Justice

NAACP: “The NAACP is honored to support this crucially important legislative package providing much needed maternal healthcare to millions of American families. We look forward to working with the 117th Congress to pass this bill into law and assisting in its much-needed full implementation.” - NAACP

NARAL Pro-Choice America: “Today we are grateful for the leadership of Representatives Underwood and Adams and for leaders and advocates in the Black community who have worked tirelessly to build a future where racist and deadly inequities in our healthcare system are a shameful relic of the past but no longer a devastating reality. We are proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus and look forward to working with our partners, lawmakers, and the Biden-Harris administration to ensure a future where every body has access to the care they need to start, grow, or care for their families.” – llyse Hogue, President, NARAL Pro-Choice America

National Alliance for Hispanic Health: “Births to Hispanic mothers represent one in four (24%) of all births in this country. Yet Hispanic mothers are less likely than non-Hispanic white mothers to receive early prenatal care despite prenatal challenges including higher rates of gestational diabetes. The Momnibus package of legislation is critical to address systemic inequities and support the well-being of all mothers and healthy birth outcomes.” - Jane L. Delgado, PhD, MS, President and CEO, National Alliance for Hispanic Health

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health: “The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH) is honored to support the Momnibus in its entirety. Eliminating disparities in maternal health outcomes requires a comprehensive approach that removes barriers to accessing care through building the perinatal care workforce, leveraging telehealth solutions, and mitigating social determinants that stand in the way of equitable access. As an organization committed to ending racism and bias, NPWH applauds the Momnibus efforts to lift up the voices of those most affected by the maternal mortality crisis in such an actionable manner. Women’s health nurse practitioners are at the forefront of prevention efforts by partnering in care during pregnancy, throughout the first year postpartum, and during the transition to well woman care. The Momnibus is an important step to not only working to dismantle racism and biases that affect maternal and women’s health outcomes, but also providing support for resources that will translate into health across the lifespan.” – Heather Maurer, CEO, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health

National Birth Equity Collaborative: “The reason so many Black women die before they can be moms is linked to the greatest social problem in the history of the United States: racism— not race! Systemic racism permeates every aspect of American life and it is woven throughout our segregated and woefully fragmented healthcare system. The Momnibus addresses system-level failures by providing policy solutions that will allow Black moms and their babies to thrive.” - Dr. Joia Crear Perry, Founder and President of the National Birth Equity Collaborative



National Black Nurses Association (NBNA): “On behalf of the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), representing 308,000 African American nurses, with 114 chapters in 34 states, I am pleased to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. NBNA applauds Representatives Lauren Underwood and Alma Adams and Senator Cory Booker for introducing this needed legislation; and, we are particularly supportive of provisions in the bill that fund grants to build and diversify the perinatal workforce. NBNA's mission is to improve health care for all Americans, with a particular focus on the underserved and the underserved, and this requires greater investment in a diverse health care workforce. This bill aligns well with the NBNA 2021 legislative priorities and we are excited to see progress on these topics in the 117th Congress.” - Dr. Martha A. Dawson, President, NBNA

National League for Nursing: “The National League for Nursing proudly supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act due to our commitment to addressing the many social determinants of health that impact diverse communities, and the vital role of nurses and nurse educators in improving the health of Black women and infants.” - Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, President and Chief Executive Officer, National League for Nursing

National Organization for Women: “NOW strongly supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and all of its important provisions that will save lives and improve health care for mothers and young children. These improvements are desperately needed by women of color and we will work to assure that this legislation is passed by Congress and signed into law.” - Christian F. Nunes, President, National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women & Families: “Over the last year, we have seen how the COVID pandemic, the stalled economy, and the national reckoning on systemic racism have increased awareness about long-standing structural inequities that drive the Black maternal health crisis. At the same time, these factors have exacerbated these inequities for pregnant people. We have more momentum than ever before to make concrete and lasting progress to tackle the Black maternal health crisis, and the Momnibus legislation is our much needed first step to achieve this. The Momnibus will provide urgently needed federal investments to address COVID-19 risks during and after pregnancy and advance respectful maternity care in future public health emergencies. The bills address Black women's needs from multiple angles, such as expanded access to healthy and affordable food, stable housing and reliable transportation. The National Partnership is proud to support the Momnibus bills and join Representatives Underwood and Adams and the Black Maternal Health Caucus to advocate for its passage.” - Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, Vice President for Health Justice, National Partnership for Women & Families

National Register of Health Service Psychologists: “The National Register of Health Service Psychologists is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus series of bills. The disparate effects of the COVID19 pandemic on minority communities has highlighted the necessity of better understanding of social determinants of health and integrating such understanding into comprehensive health care policy and legislation that will improve access to quality care for all Americans.” Morgan Sammons, PhD, ABPP, CEO, National Register of Health Service Psychologists.



National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First: “As evidence-based community health programs, the National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. NSO is very concerned about the high rate of maternal mortality and morbidity in the U.S., and is committed to doing our part to address this issue. This package of legislation takes critical steps to improve maternal health outcomes, address racial disparities, and makes smart investments in the healthcare workforce and social determinants of health. In response to the pandemic, this package also invests in federal programs to address the unique needs of COVID-19 during and after pregnancy and provides funds to promote maternal and child vaccinations. We commend the Black Maternal Health Caucus for their efforts to end preventable maternal deaths and improve outcomes for mothers.” - Sarah McGee, Chief Policy & Government Affairs Officer, National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First

National WIC Association: “We could not be more grateful to Reps. Adams and Underwood for their fervent leadership in forming the Black Maternal Health Caucus and pushing for this critical legislation. We are excited that this year’s Momnibus bill creates additional grant opportunities to support other racial and ethnic groups impacted by maternal mortality, including Indigenous-led organizations. This legislation vitally enhances the WIC program by extending postpartum eligibility to two years, providing crucial anti-racism and implicit bias trainings to WIC providers, and diversifying the pipeline for new nutritionists, dietitians, and lactation consultants. Thank you to the Black Maternal Health Caucus for prioritizing maternal health and introducing such an inclusive bill.” – Rev. Douglas Greenaway, President & CEO, National WIC Association

National Women's Health Network: “NWHN is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act because the U.S. fares worse in preventing pregnancy-related deaths than most other developed nations and this bill aims to improve maternal health in the U.S.” -M. Isabelle Chaudry, National Women's Health Network

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice: "Bringing a baby into the world should not be a death sentence. The fact that Black mothers are dying at high rates in or after childbirth is unacceptable. Our health care system must support life. As Pope Francis reminds us, we must say ‘thou shalt not’ to structures of exclusion and inequality because they kill. The Catholic advocates of NETWORK urge Congress to immediately pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 to put the health of Black mothers first." - Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice:

Nzuri Doula Services: “Nzuri Doula Services is proud to support the Momnibus and every individual bill because we believe that minority women deserve to be heard and understood when it comes to their maternal health. Great care should not be limited to a status or any other discriminatory acts in the healthcare industry.” - Anansa Lattimore, Nzuri Doula Services

Poppy Seed Health: “Poppy Seed Health is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus as it urgently addresses the need to improve maternal health outcomes and eliminate the racial disparities



that are creating devastating consequences for Black womxn in the United States. Poppy Seed Health is an accessible telehealth solution that connects birthing families everywhere with trusted advocates - doulas, midwives, and nurses - for real-time answers when you need them the most. Equal access to information, emotional support, and culturally competent care should be basic human rights for BIPOC families. We applaud Vice President Kamala Harris, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, Congresswoman Alma Adams, and the Black Maternal Health Caucus for their leadership on this legislation." - Simone Taitt, Founder & CEO, Poppy Seed Health

Postpartum Support International: "Postpartum Support International is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act inclusive with the other bills. This Act will save lives, protect women and families access to care and their overall health, mental health and environmental health. Most importantly, for the hundreds of thousands of women and families who suffer from mental health conditions during pregnancy and postpartum, the Act includes critical support for moms with maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders. We look forward to supporting the Act and sharing this critical effort with our extensive national network." – Postpartum Support International

Power to Decide: "Power to Decide proudly supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act as a critical step toward reducing disparities in maternal health and improving birth outcomes for Black and brown people across the country. As a reproductive health care provider, I know that by addressing the structural inequities that limit access to quality reproductive health we can help ensure that maintaining a healthy pregnancy and delivery does not cost lives. All people – including people of color and those with lower incomes – deserve the power to decide if, when and under what circumstances to become pregnant and have a child." - Dr. Raegan McDonald-Mosley, CEO, Power to Decide

Preeclampsia Foundation: "The Momnibus and BMHC efforts are critically important in our collective responsibility to address racial and ethnic health disparities, especially those in hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Together we can help address maternal morbidity and mortality by ensuring the patient voice and lived experience is heard and by pursuing remote health monitoring solutions to reach more at-risk pregnant and postpartum women." - Kim Smith, Chair, Board of Directors, Preeclampsia Foundation

Public Health Advisory Council of the Climate Action Campaign: "On behalf of the Public Health Advisory Council of San Diego, we enthusiastically support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus and the Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change Act because it is long past time to end racial disparities in health outcomes in the United States, especially where moms and babies are being endangered." - Bruce Bekkar, M.D., Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Chair, Public Health Advisory Council of the Climate Action Campaign

riskLD: "riskLD is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and applauds Congresswoman Underwood, Congresswoman Adams, and Senator Booker for their leadership on this issue. This wide-sweeping commitment to improving birth outcomes and reducing racial disparities in



maternal health provides a comprehensive framework for boldly tackling one of the most pressing public health crises of our time.” - riskLD

Sacramento Maternal Mental Health Collaborative: “The Sacramento Maternal Mental Health Collaborative is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus as an ally in anti-racism, equity, and access for all pregnant and parenting persons.” - Sacramento Maternal Mental Health Collaborative

Sawubona4Life: “We support the Momnibus Act because it reinforces the need and urgency with which stakeholders should be educated to act on behalf of black women seeking care, especially in the postpartum period!” - Sawubona4Life

SisterReach: “SisterReach is proud to sponsor Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act because we recognize that legislative violence, racism, sexism, homophobia, strategic and intentional abandonment of Black mothers is at epidemic proportions in Tennessee and across the Southeast. This matrix of acts will help to identify and support mothers to live and thrive, along with their families and communities.” - Cherisse Scott, CEO & Founder, SisterReach

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine: “The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated yet again the stark inequities in health outcomes for people of color, with black and brown communities disproportionately bearing the burden of mortality and morbidity due to the virus. These unacceptable inequities begin before children of color are even born, with their mothers facing complications that threaten their lives and health. Inequities in maternal health outcomes have persisted for far too long, and it is past time for urgent action to save the lives and promote the well-being of mothers of color. The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine applauds Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC), Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and members of the Black Maternal Health Caucus for taking bold steps in the Black Maternal Health Momnibus to implement policies to remedy the systemic causes of maternal deaths, and we look forward to supporting them in this effort.” - William Grobman, MD, MBA, President, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Society for Women's Health Research: “The Society for Women’s Health Research is pleased to endorse the updated Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. This package of bills provides a comprehensive set of policies necessary to improve maternal health through efforts aimed at training, care coordination, workforce, data collection, and support for community engagement that empowers pregnant and postpartum people in their care and health. SWHR commends updates that prioritize COVID-19 response and vaccination needs for those who are pregnant, which are crucial to protect maternal health in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. We applaud Congresswoman Underwood, Congresswoman Adams, Senator Booker, and the Black Maternal Health Caucus for their continued commitment to and championship of advancing maternal health equity.” - Kathryn G. Schubert, President & CEO, Society for Women's Health Research

Sustainable Food Policy Alliance: “The Sustainable Food Policy Alliance is invested in building strong, safe, and healthy families and communities. The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act will provide vital support for Black mothers by making much-needed investments in maternal health, especially by



expanding access to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The racial disparities in maternal health are apparent, and we believe that this legislation is an important step in addressing how systemic issues influence maternal health outcomes. SFPA is proud to support legislation that promotes the wellbeing of Black mothers and children, while also improving food security at a time when many American communities face disproportionate challenges to feed their families.” - Sustainable Food Policy Alliance

The Jacobs Institute of Women's Health: “The Momnibus is critical for improving women's health. The Jacobs Institute of Women's Health applauds the attention on key social determinants of health as this will ensure we truly address the root causes of the disparities in maternal health.” - Susan F Wood, PhD, Director, The Jacobs Institute of Women's Health

The Johns Hopkins Women's Mood Disorders Center: “Maternal mental health matters to everyone and the Johns Hopkins Women's Mood Disorders Center strongly supports passing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act in order to invest in our families' futures.” - The Johns Hopkins Women's Mood Disorders Center

The National Association to Advance Black Birth: “The National Association to Advance Black Birth is proud to support the Black Maternal Momnibus Act because the time for action and birth justice is now. The Black Maternal Momnibus Act works to make systemic changes to advance Black birth by focusing on developing a diverse perinatal workforce, supporting Black led community-driven solutions, expanding insurance through the first year postpartum, and more. These interventions are critical and necessary initial steps in promoting equity and transforming Black maternal health.” – The National Association to Advance Black Birth

The Root Cause Coalition: “Every mother deserves support and services to assure her health and wellbeing. The Root Cause Coalition applauds Congresswoman Lauren Underwood and the Black Maternal Health Caucus, and is proud to endorse this critical legislation.” – Barbara Petee, Executive Director, The Root Cause Coalition

The Shades of Blue Project: “The Shades of Blue Project is proud to Support all the bills included in the Momnibus. Working together as one, we will all make the necessary shift that needs to happen to see change now and in the future.” – The Shades of Blue Project

Union for Reform Judaism: “The Union for Reform Judaism is proud to support the Black Maternal Momnibus Act of 2021 as a necessary first step in eliminating health disparities and health inequities plaguing Black women. Systemic and structural racism in the United States is exacerbated and sustained by an invisible Caste system that determines where each person fits into a false hierarchy and places Black women on the bottom rung, with devastating health consequences. This bill is an overdue effort to address generations of injustice and ensure race is never a determinant of health outcomes.” -Yolanda Savage-Narva, Director for Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Union for Reform Judaism

University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing: “The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing is pleased to support the Black Maternal Health Momnibus. This comprehensive set of bills seeks to



address the root causes of unacceptable disparities in health outcomes for Black mothers as babies. As a leader in the preparation of nurses, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse midwives, we recognize the importance of addressing this issue in a wholistic manner. We are pleased to lend support to this effort.”
- University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

Urban Mommy INC: “Urban Mommy INC is proud to support the Black Maternal Momnibus Act because we know that black mothers die three to four times the rate of white mothers. The unfortunate reality is that 60% of these deaths can be prevented. This bill is dedicated to eliminating some of the barriers that exist with black women and assisting them receiving the necessary support to save their life and the life of their unborn child. When you strengthen a mother, you elevate a family. Now is the time to pursue equality for black women to live healthier and happier lives.” - Monique Norington-Joseph Founder and President, Urban Mommy INC

What to Expect Project: "The What to Expect Project is proud to stand with the Black Maternal Health Caucus, under the passionate leadership of Representatives Underwood and Adams in a shared mission to promote equitable, respectful, responsive and empowering care for Black moms. That’s why we are honored to endorse the MOMNIBUS, an essential, actionable, evidence-based package of legislation to erase the unacceptable racial disparities that have long persisted in maternal healthcare, and that have widened significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing the already unacceptably high risks for moms of color. The challenges are greater than ever, adding to the urgency of providing care for all moms that come without exception, without disparities, and without arbitrary use-by dates. We must ensure passage of the MOMNIBUS so that every mom can expect the healthy pregnancy, the safe delivery and the healthy future she and her baby deserve." - Heidi Murkoff, maternal-child health advocate, creator of WhattoExpect.com, founder of the What To Expect Project and author of What to Expect When You’re Expecting

Women of Reform Judaism: Women of Reform Judaism is proud to endorse the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. In Judaism, the principle of pikuach nefesh, preserving life, overrides virtually any other religious rule. This value undergirds much of our reproductive rights advocacy. This life-saving legislation is a much needed step to mitigate the unacceptable maternal mortality crisis plaguing Black women and families. -Rabbi Marla Feldman, Executive Director, Women of Reform Judaism

Letters & Statements in Support:

- [American Academy of Nursing](#)
- [Blue Cross Blue Shield Association](#)
- [Environmental Defense Fund](#) (Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change Act)