

Black Maternal Health Momnibus

The **Black Maternal Health Momnibus (H.R.959/S.346)** is a compilation of 12 bills that seek to remedy the severe racial and other disparities in maternal health and mortality in the United States. This package of bills, championed by the Black Maternal Health Caucus, is led by Reps Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and Alma Adams (D-NC) in the House and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) in the Senate.

Birthing people of color, including Hispanic, Native American, and Asian American and Pacific Islander women, experience disproportionate mortality and morbidity rates; for example Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than their white counterparts. The bill is aimed at improving maternal health for birthing people of color as well as other high-risk populations including veterans and incarcerated people. The Momnibus does this by packaging together 12 standalone bills:

- 1. Social Determinants for Moms Act:** Supports investment and research into social determinants of health, including housing, transportation, and nutrition access, and their impact maternal health outcomes. This bill is led by Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT).
- 2. Kira Johnson Act:** Supports community-based organizations and compliance with respectful maternity care standards for birthing people of color. Named in honor of a mom who died just hours after giving birth. This bill is led by Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC) and Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA).
- 3. Protecting Moms Who Served Act:** Implements maternity care coordination in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and requires reporting on racial and ethnic disparities in veterans' maternal health. This bill is led by Reps. Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL).
- 4. Perinatal Workforce Act:** Supports programs and research to increase diversity in the perinatal workforce and advance respectful maternity care standards. This bill is led by Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) and Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR).
- 5. Data to Save Moms Act:** Improves data collection and research on adverse maternal health outcomes for minority populations. This bill is led by Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS) and Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN).

- 6. Moms Matter Act:** Invests in programs to address maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders, with a focus on women of color. This bill is led by Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and John Katko (R-NY) and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY).
- 7. Justice for Incarcerated Moms Act:** Invests in programs that support pregnant people who are incarcerated and ends shackling of these individuals. This bill is led by Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ), Dick Durbin (D-IL), and Mazie Hirono (D-HI).
- 8. Tech to Save Moms Act:** Supports the use of digital tools to address disparities and improve maternal health outcomes in underserved communities. This bill is led by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ).
- 9. IMPACT to Save Moms Act:** Establishes a project to test new payment models for maternity and postpartum care, with the goal of increasing equity in health outcomes. This bill is led by Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA).
- 10. Maternal Health Pandemic Response Act:** Invests in data collection, research, and other activities to safeguard maternal health during the COVID-19 pandemic and in preparation for future public health emergencies. This bill is led by Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).
- 11. Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change Act:** Supports research and community-based programs to address the impact of climate change on negative birth outcomes and to promote equity. This bill is led by Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA).
- 12. Maternal Vaccination Act:** Establishes a national campaign to raise awareness about maternal vaccinations and to increase vaccination rates, focused on communities with historically low rates of vaccination. This bill is led by Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA).

Standing alone, each of the above bills plays a critical role in addressing adverse birth outcomes and promoting equity among birthing people. When combined into the Momnibus, these measures build on existing legislation to comprehensively address the maternal health crisis in this country and the racial and ethnic disparities that contribute to this crisis.