

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK 2025

APRIL 11-17, 2025

#BMHW25



April 14, 2025

Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Minority Leader Schumer, and Speaker Mike Johnson,

The 59 undersigned organizations and individuals are in full support of the 2025 Black Maternal Health Week Resolution led by Representative Alma Adams (NC-12), Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14), and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ).

This year marks the **eight anniversary** of the Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW) campaign. Founded and led by the BMMA, Inc. (Black Mamas Matter Alliance), BMHW is a week of awareness, activism, and community building intended to: deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the US; amplify community-driven policy, research, and care solutions; center the voices of Black Mamas, women, families, and stakeholders; provide a national platform for Black-led entities and efforts on maternal health, birth and reproductive justice; and enhance community organizing on Black maternal health.

Black Maternal Health Week takes place every year from April 11 –17 and has been officially recognized by the White House for the last three years. The month of April is recognized in the United States as National Minority Health Month – a month-long initiative to advance health equity across the country on behalf of all racial and ethnic minorities. Additionally, we are joining dozens of global organizations who are fighting to end maternal mortality globally in recognizing April 11th as the International Day for Maternal Health and Rights.

The BMHW 2025 theme is “**Healing Legacies: Strengthening Black Maternal Health Through Collective Action and Advocacy**” The theme acknowledges the persistent legacies of systemic oppression(s), reproductive injustices, and health inequities that have disproportionately

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affected Black Mamas and people. In light of the steadily alarming rise of maternal mortality in the U.S., and amidst growing cases of clear neglect in care in hospital systems immediately after labor and delivery, BMMA continues to dedicate ourselves to advancing collective action highlighting the essential role of collaboration between Black-led organizations, advocates, and communities to lead advocacy efforts, shape policies, and amplify solutions.

The Black Maternal Health Week Resolution describes the state of the maternal health crisis in the United States, which disproportionately impacts Black women and birthing people. According to the 2023 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report, the maternal mortality rate for Black women in the United States have continuously increased with 50.3 deaths per 100,000 live births while rates decreased significantly for White-non-Hispanic, Hispanic, and Asian women¹. The high rates of maternal mortality among Black women and birthing people span across socioeconomic levels and have been further exacerbated by the lack of prenatal and postnatal healthcare and provider access. Structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities contribute significantly to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing people.

The Black Maternal Health Week Resolution calls on Congress to enact policies grounded in the birth justice, reproductive justice, and human rights frameworks. The BMHW resolution also outlines policy recommendations voiced by the perinatal, maternal, and reproductive workforce that are working with birthing people from all communities, implement evidence-based practices and solutions that incorporate the true needs, wants, and desires of Black women and birthing people that can resolve the maternal health crisis. Congress must pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and work to prioritize and engage Black women and birthing people in policy and program development and implementation. With the support of the undersigned organizations and of our Congressional champions, we believe we can build a world in which Black Mamas have the rights, respect, and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy.

Sincerely,

¹Hoyert DL. Maternal mortality rates in the United States, 2023. NCHS Health E-Stats. 2025. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc/174577>

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BMMA, Inc. (Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Inc.)

4Kira4Moms

A Better Balance

All Families Birth & Wellness Services

American Association of Birth Centers

American College of Nurse-Midwives

Atlanta Birth Center

Baobab Birth Collective

Beacon Public Health

Birth Center Equity

Birth Sisters of Charlottesville

Birthing Cultural Rigor, LLC

Black Mothers Breastfeeding Association

Black Women for Wellness Action Project

Black Women's Health Imperative

BLKBRY

Bloom Collective

Center for Reproductive Rights

Coalition to Expand Contraceptive Access (CECA)

Commonsense Childbirth Inc.

Dem Black Mamas Podcast

Evelyn & William Blythe Advocates for Health Equity

Feminist Women's Health Center

Georgia Council for Recovery

Georgia Watch

HEART

I Be Black Girl

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Jamaa Birth Village

Kuluntu Reproductive Justice Center

Lioness Lactation LLC

Majaica

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MomsRising
Monica McLemore, Ph.D, MPH, RN, FADLN
Mothering Justice
Narrative Nation/Irth App
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
National Association to Advance Black Birth
National Black Midwives Alliance
National Health Law Program
National Partnership for Women & Families
Nicole Clark Consulting, LLC
Not On My Watch Consulting Partners
Oshun Family Center
Perinatal Health Equity Initiative
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Philicia Castillo-Sanders, MPH, Research Scientist
Quilted Health
Research!America
RJ Squared LLC
SACReD (Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity)
Sankofa Reproductive Health & Healing Center
Shades of Blue Project
Sisters in Loss
SisterSong
SiX Action
Southern Birth Justice Network
Speaking of Birth
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

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² CDC, Division of Reproductive Health <https://www.cdc.gov/hearher/pregnancy-related-deaths/index.html>