

Congress Reintroduces Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act Legislative Package

On May 15, 2023, Congress [reintroduced](#) a sweeping package of thirteen maternal health-related bills that seek to address racism and racial inequities disproportionately impacting pregnant and birthing people in the United States. Championed by House Black Maternal Health Caucus co-founders, Representatives Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and Alma Adams (D-NC), and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), the *Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act* seeks to address many of the underlying causes of a broken maternal health care system that disproportionately impacts Black and Brown communities. The “Momnibus” centers Black and Brown pregnant and birthing people by taking steps to address some of the root causes that have led to the staggering and abysmal maternal health statistics impacting these communities.

“As providers of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, midwives must rise to the challenges surrounding access and health equity by educating ourselves about biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and other factors. Federal legislative efforts to change systems of oppression, like structural racism, that are a key risk factor for maternal death and illness in people of color, are critical steps that must be taken” stated ACNM Interim CEO Michelle L. Munroe, DNP, CNM, FACNM, FAAN. “The American College of Nurse-Midwives applauds the Black Maternal Health Caucus and the members of Congress engaged in efforts to address the appalling racial and ethnic disparities, racism, and biases in the delivery of, and access to, maternal health care in the United States.”

The *Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act* is a historic package of 13 individual pieces of legislation that seek to address our nation’s maternal health crisis that disproportionately impacts people of color. ACNM stands ready to work with Congress to improve the delivery of maternal health services for Black and Brown communities and all pregnant and birthing people. Of specific interest to all nationally certified midwives, are the new provisions added to the *Perinatal Workforce Act* that echo the provisions within the *Midwives for Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services Act* by creating targeted federal funding opportunities for all accredited midwifery education programs interested in diversifying their student body and faculty.

ACNM commends the champions behind the [Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act](#) and looks forward to working with House and Senate leaders and the larger maternal and women’s health stakeholder community to improve the culture of health for pregnant and birthing people and the communities midwives serve. Contact [Amy Kohl](#), ACNM Director, Advocacy & Government Affairs, for more information on the *Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act* and learn how you can help advocate for change.