

SUPPORT BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK RESOLUTION

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in supporting the inaugural national Black Maternal Health Week and in recognizing the importance of Black maternal health. The Black Mamas Matter Alliance supports this resolution.

The United States is the only wealthy country in which rates of illness and death during pregnancy are on the rise. The rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women are especially alarming. Black women are [three to four times](#) more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women. This resolution is one way to draw attention to this health crisis in the Black community.

Maternal mortality is a pregnancy-related death of a woman while pregnant or within one year of the end of a pregnancy from any cause related to pregnancy. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pregnancy complications include anemia, urinary tract infections, mental health conditions, high blood pressure, pregnancy-induced high blood sugar, severe morning sickness (hyperemesis gravidarum), and more.

From 2000 to 2013, the U.S. experienced a substantial [increase](#) of 26.6 percent in maternal mortality rates. Even more alarming, maternal mortality rates have reached crisis levels in the Black community. Black women are [243 percent](#) more likely to die from pregnancy related causes than their white counterparts. Black women are [two to three times](#) more likely to die than white women who have the same pregnancy-related medical condition. Black women are also [twice](#) as likely to suffer from severe maternal morbidity than white mothers. The high mortality rate among Black mothers leaves lives tragically cut short at their prime, children without mothers, families without matriarchs, and communities without leaders. Congress must act to address this health injustice.

In an effort to bring awareness and resources to the Black maternal health crisis, [Black Mamas Matter Alliance](#), a Black women-led, cross-sectorial alliance, founded the inaugural national Black Maternal Health Week. The Black Mamas Matter Alliance has organized a week of awareness, activism, and community building focused on improving Black maternal health from April 11th to the 17th.

Congress must work towards lowering Black maternal mortality rates, and recognizing the significance of the inaugural national Black Maternal Health Week is a strong step in the right direction.

I hope you will join me in supporting this important resolution. If you have questions or would like to become a cosponsor, please contact Erika Calderon at Erika.Calderon@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,
Alma Adams
Member of Congress