



August 1, 2023

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
United States House of Representatives
1410 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congresswoman Underwood and Senator Booker,

On behalf of the 51 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) we would like to thank you for introducing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2023 (H.R. 3305/ S.1606). The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. Together, we support this comprehensive effort to address the growing maternal health crisis facing our nation.

The US has the highest rate of maternal mortality among similar high-income countries, and these statistics continue to worsen.² In 2021, the stark reality of this issue came into focus as the maternal mortality rate in the US was reported as 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births, compared with a rate of 23.8 in 2020 and 20.1 in 2019.³ Sadly, our black mothers are disproportionately impacted as their maternal mortality rates are 2.5 to 3.1 times higher than that of their white counterparts.⁴ With more than four and a half million practitioners throughout the country,⁵ nurses and APRNs are at the forefront of these efforts to improve maternal, child, and women's health.

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

² Tikkanen, R., Gunja, M.Z., FitzGerald, & M., Zephyrin L. (2020). Maternal mortality and maternity care in the United States compared to 10 other developed countries. The Commonwealth Fund. Retrieved from:

<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2020/nov/maternal-mortality-maternity-care-us-compared-10-countries#:~:text=In%202018%2C%20there%20were%2017,%2C%20Norway%2C%20and%20New%20Zealand.>

³ Hoyert, D.L., Minino, A. (2021). Maternal Mortality Rates in the United States, 2021. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality/2021/maternal-mortality-rates-2021.htm>

⁴ Hoyert, D.L., Minino, A. (2020). Maternal Mortality in the United States: Changes in Coding, Publication, and Data Release, 2018. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Volume 69 (2), page 1. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr69/nvsr69-02-508.pdf>

⁵ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2023). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of June 27, 2023. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>

From growing and diversifying the perinatal workforce and investing in social determinants of health to supporting moms' mental health and our pregnant and postpartum veterans, the Momnibus Act provides a multipronged approach to addressing maternal health in the United States. More so, we recognize that more data is needed to inform a sound and lasting policy solution. By including provisions to improve data collection and quality measures, we are on the right path to providing the care our mothers need.

As we continue to address the racial and ethnic gaps in health care, and create a more equitable system, especially for our black and brown mothers, passing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2023 is a necessary and strong step forward, one supported by the undersigned members of the NCC. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates