



April 29, 2021

The Honorable Lauren Underwood  
United States House of Representatives  
1130 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 45 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) we would like to thank you for introducing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 (H.R. 959/S.346). 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),<sup>1</sup> nurse leaders, students, faculty, and researchers. Together, we support this comprehensive effort to address the growing maternal health crisis facing our nation.

In 2018, the stark reality of this issue came into focus as the maternal mortality rate in the U.S. was reported as 17.4 deaths per 100,000 live births,<sup>2</sup> a number more than double other developed countries.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> With more than four million practitioners throughout the country,<sup>5</sup> nurses and APRNs are at the forefront of these efforts to improve maternal, child, and women's health.

From growing and diversifying the perinatal workforce and investing in social determinants of health to supporting mom's mental health and our pregnant and postpartum veterans, the

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 4. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr69/nvsr69-02-508.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> 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.>

<sup>4</sup> 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>

<sup>5</sup> National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2021). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of March 8, 2021. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>

Momnibus Act provides a multipronged approach to addressing maternal health in the United States. As we continue to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, we were proud to see additional investments into programs that look at the impact this public health crisis has during and after pregnancy, while promoting maternal vaccinations for the safety of the mother and child. 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 2021 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](mailto:rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org) or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
Academy of Neonatal Nursing  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
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 Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
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.  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Associations  
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research  
Infusion Nurses Society  
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 Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of School Nurses  
National Black Nurses Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
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