

Advancing the Village to Hold the Mother:

Black Maternal Health Week 2020

Monday April 13, 2020



Advocacy Toolkit



Talking Points:

THE PROBLEM: In the United States, too many women are suffering from pregnancy-related complications that lead to serious injury or death. The U.S. currently ranks lower than all other developed countries when it comes to maternal death ratios. Some women are more at risk than others. Black women are 3-4x more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

THE SOLUTION: Many of these deaths and illnesses are preventable. The United States could avoid about 40% of maternal deaths if all women - regardless of race, education, age and zip code - had access to quality health care. In addition to improving health care access and quality, government actors must address the intersectional root causes of Black maternal mortality and morbidity. The causes include socioeconomic inequalities, racial discrimination and gender-based violence in the health care system and our society.

Pennsylvania and Federal Legislation:

Pennsylvania State Representative Morgan Cephasm, 192nd Legislative District: In response to the maternal health crisis in Pennsylvania, Cephas has introduced the following bills. Each bill will be discussed during the webinar.

- [H.B. 2107](#) – Add severe maternal morbidity to the list of reportable events within the Pennsylvania Department of Health ([PDF](#))
- [H.B. 2108](#) – Extends Medicaid coverage for pregnancy-related and postpartum medical assistance ([PDF](#))
- [H.B. 2109](#) – Extends Medicaid coverage to doula services and creates a Doula Advisory Board ([PDF](#))
- [H.B. 2110](#) – Requires training to address implicit bias and culture competency that impact care and quality of care for patients of color, including women of color during pregnancy and childbirth. ([PDF](#))

Congress Members Alma Adams of the 12th District of North Carolina and Lauren Underwood of the 14th District of Illinois: On April 9, 2019, Congress Members Adams and Underwood launched the Congressional Black Maternal Health Caucus. The goal of the Caucus is organized around the goals of elevating the Black maternal health crisis within Congress and advancing policy solutions to improve maternal health outcomes and end disparities. Representatives Adams and Underwood in the House of Representatives and Senator Kamala

Harris in the Senate are leading the legislative effort to address Black maternal mortality through the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2020 - an expansive package of bills introduced on March 9, 2020.

[MOMNIBUS SUMMARY](#)

[TEXT OF THE BILL](#)

Find Your Pennsylvania State Representative or Senator:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>

Sample Letter:

[STATE CAPITOL OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS]

The Honorable _____
Pennsylvania House of Representatives or Pennsylvania Senate
Office Address
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Zip Code

OR

[DISTRICT OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS]

The Honorable _____
Pennsylvania House of Representatives or Pennsylvania Senate
Office Address
City, Pennsylvania, Zip Code

Dear Representative/Senator _____:

As a constituent of your district, I urge you to support a package of legislation introduced by Pennsylvania State Representative Morgan Cephas focused on reducing maternal mortality for all women and birthing individuals and to specifically address the Black maternal health crisis in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Too many women in Pennsylvania are suffering from pregnancy-complications that lead to serious injury or death. Pennsylvania currently ranks 24th in the United States for maternal mortality. Some women are more at risk than others. Black women are more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes among all women and compared to white women. Black maternal mortality impacts mothers and birthing individuals regardless of income or education. Black

women in Pennsylvania are 2.4 times more likely to die among all mothers. Alarming, Black mothers comprise 75% of all maternal deaths in the City of Philadelphia.

There are interventions we can take in our healthcare systems, in our local communities and in our policymaking to improve maternal health in Pennsylvania. As a legislator, it is imperative for policymakers like you to address the intersectional root causes of Black maternal mortality through legislation.

Therefore, I ask that you support the following bills introduced by Representative Cephas:

- **HB 2107** – Adds severe maternal morbidity to the list of reportable events within the PA Department of Health.
- **HB 2108** – Extends Medicaid coverage for pregnancy related and postpartum medical assistance.
- **HB 2109** – Extends Medicaid coverage to Doula services and creates a Doula Advisory Board.
- **HB 2110** – Requires training to address implicit bias and cultural competency that impact care and quality of care for patients of color, including women of color during pregnancy and childbirth.

Support of a bill package of this magnitude would be monumental for the health and well-being of birthing women of color. Thank you for your consideration and willingness to learn more regarding Black maternal health.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

Address

City, Pennsylvania, Zip Code

Social Media Content

**ADVANCING THE VILLAGE
TO HOLD THE MOTHER**
Black Maternal Health Week Webinar



MONDAY, APRIL 13 • 12PM - 1:30PM

PRESENTERS

PA State Rep. Morgan Cephas <small>192nd Legislative District</small>	Lexi White <small>Senior Policy Manager In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda</small>	Dr. Aasta Mehta <small>Women's Health Policy Advisor Philadelphia Department of Health</small>
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | #BMHW2020 #HOLDTHEMOTHER #BLACKMAMMAMATTER

HOSTED BY:   

SAVE YOUR SPOT! RSVP AT bit.ly/holdingthemother

Black Maternal Health Week
April 11-17

**Listen to
Black
Women**

#BMHW2020
#HOLDTHEMOTHER
#BLACKMAMMAMATTER

Black Maternal Health Week
Everyone wants to hold the baby,

**Who will
hold the
mother?**
-Jabina Coleman

#BMHW2020
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Hashtags:

#BMHW20

#HoldTheMother

#BlackMamasMatter

Partner Organizations:

Oshun Family Center / Maternal Wellness Village (Philadelphia)
oshunfamilycenter.org

New Voices for Reproductive Justice (Pennsylvania & Ohio)
newvoicesrj.org

**In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
(Washington, DC)**
blackrj.org

Thank You!