

THE MATERNAL HEALTH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (S.1112) AND THE PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS ACT (H.R. 1318)

BACKGROUND

- **Maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity are on the rise in the U.S.**
 - **For every 100,000 births in the U.S., there are 17 maternal deathsⁱ**, which places the U.S. 46th in the world in measures of maternal mortality.ⁱⁱ
 - For every woman who dies from pregnancy or childbirth related complications, more than 100 will experience a life-threatening complication or undergo a life-saving treatment.ⁱⁱⁱ
 - Severe maternal morbidity affects 65,000 women each year.^{iv}
- **At least half of the maternal deaths in the U.S. each year are preventable.^v**
- **Women of color experience higher rates of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, and are less likely to have access to quality, affordable, appropriate, and timely maternal care**, placing them at a higher risk for poor maternal health outcomes.
 - **Black women are three to four times more likely to die** from complications of pregnancy and childbirth than White women^{vi}, and are **twice as likely to suffer from severe maternal morbidity.^{vii}**
 - **Black and Latina women receive lower quality care** than White women on 40 percent of measures of overall health care quality, suggesting they receive lower quality reproductive health care.^{viii}
 - **Thirty-two percent of Black women and 41 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women do not receive adequate prenatal care,^{ix}** leaving them three to four times more likely to die of pregnancy or childbirth-related complications.

WHAT THE MATERNAL HEALTH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT AND THE PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS ACT DO

- Support states in **establishing and sustaining maternal mortality review committees** to review pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths (maternal deaths) and identify ways to end such deaths.
- Ensure that state departments of health develop plans for **ongoing health care provider education** to improve the quality of maternal care
- **Improve data collection** to improve health care quality and outcomes, and to address disparities in maternal health outcomes

PLEASE COSPONSOR THE MATERNAL HEALTH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT AND THE PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS ACT

- The Maternal Health Accountability Act and the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act take positive steps to improve maternal health and prevent maternal mortality.
- Quality, affordable, timely, and appropriate maternal health care can help improve maternal health outcomes and prevent maternal deaths. The Maternal Health Accountability Act and the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act directly expand provider training to improve the quality of maternal health care.
- The Maternal Health Accountability Act and Preventing Maternal Deaths Act address disparities in maternal health outcomes by improving data collection and information sharing on best practices.

Please support women, children, and families by co-sponsoring The Maternal Health Accountability Act (S.1112) and The Preventing Maternal Deaths Act (H.R.1318).

ⁱ Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, Center for Disease Control, (Dec. 2016),

<https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pmss.html> [hereinafter Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System]. ii Black Mamas Matter: A Toolkit for Advancing the Human Right to Safe And Respectful Maternal Care, Center for Reproductive Rights.

ⁱⁱ Black Mamas Matter: A Toolkit for Advancing the Human Right to Safe And Respectful Maternal Care, Center for Reproductive Rights, (2016), https://www.reproductiverights.org/document/black-mamas-matter-toolkit-for-advancing-human-right-to-safe-respectful-maternal-healthcare?utm_content=buffer2efd5&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer.

ⁱⁱⁱ Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, supra note i

^{iv} CDC. (2016). Maternal Health: Advancing the Health of Mothers in the 21st Century,

<https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/aag/pdf/2016/aag-maternal-health.pdf>.

^v Francine Coeytaux et al., Maternal Mortality in the United States: A Human Rights Failure. *Contraception J.* (2011).

^{vi} Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System, supra note i.

^{vii} Black Mamas Matter, supra note ii.

^{viii} HHS, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2013 National Healthcare Disparities Report 14 (2014), <http://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/research/findings/nhqrd/r/nhdr13/2013nhdr.pdf>.

^{ix} Maternal Mortality in the United States: A Human Rights Failure, supra note v.