

February 7, 2021

The Honorable Cory Booker
U.S. Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
U.S. House of Representatives
1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alma Adams
U.S. House of Representatives
2436 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Booker, Representatives Underwood and Adams:

On behalf of the Nation's frontline physician organizations, representing more than 560,000 physicians and medical students dedicated to advancing the health and wellbeing of our patients, we write to thank you for your steadfast leadership on behalf of the Black Maternal Health Caucus in introducing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 and your dedication to eliminating racial health inequities and preventable maternal deaths through thoughtful policymaking. This work is especially critical now as the COVID-19 pandemic risks exacerbating our national's maternal mortality crisis and disproportionately impacts communities of color.

The rates of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States are unacceptable and we share your deep concerns with the stark racial and ethnic inequities in these health outcomes. As you know, differences in outcomes result from many factors including in access to and delivery of quality health care. We appreciate your work to improve the provision of culturally congruent care through strong collaboration with physicians and a focus on ensuring all patients receive high-quality, individualized, and respectful care. Your leadership and work to elevate the voices of Black birthing persons and advance evidence-based policies that improve care and outcomes for minoritized populations energize our collective efforts to promote equity in the health care system.

As leaders in medicine, we are committed to advancing public policies that help eliminate racial inequities and improve health outcomes. We look forward to continued partnership with you and the Caucus to advance evidence-based policies that accomplish our shared goal of eliminating preventable maternal mortality.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association