



April XX, 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 XX undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) we would like to thank you for introducing the Black Maternal Health Omnibus 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),¹ 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,² a number more than double other developed countries.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 million practitioners throughout the country,⁵ 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 moms mental health and our pregnant and postpartum veterans, the

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

² 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>

³ 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>.

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. (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 or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Ambulatory Care 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 Nephrology Nurses 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
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Infusion Nurses Society
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 League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses