



Black Maternal Health Week 2023

Quotes In Support

Community Catalyst: “We proudly support Black Maternal Health Week as part of our work to build power by centering the lived experience and expertise of those who have been unfairly discriminated against due to structural racism and other forms of oppression. Black women and birthing people continue to bear the weight of an unjust health system, and this harms us all. Together, we must unite in a shared vision for progress, one that addresses the root causes of harm and advances policy solutions that center race equity and health justice.” – Emily Stewart, Executive Director of Community Catalyst.

Isabel Morgan, MSPH, CPH, PhD: “Recent data document significant increases in maternal mortality in 2021, with sustained racial inequities for Black women, pregnant, and postpartum people. Centering Black autonomy and joy is not simply a slogan and theme for BMHW23. It represents the critical need for significant ideological and programmatic shifts in how our society collectively shifts power and centers and affirms Black women, pregnant and postpartum people as knowledge bearers and truth tellers about their own needs and desires.”

March of Dimes: “March of Dimes commends Representatives Alma Adams, Lauren Underwood and Senator Cory Booker for leading this year’s Black Maternal Health Week Resolution and their continued efforts to address the alarming state of Black maternal health. In the U.S., Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes and 50 percent more likely to have a preterm birth as compared to White women. It is past time we address the structural racism and inequities in social determinants of health that contribute so significantly to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women.” – Stacey Y. Brayboy, Sr. Vice President, Public Policy & Government Affairs



Mothering Justice: “Mothering Justice stands in full solidarity with the Resolution for Black Maternal Health Week presented by The Black Mamas Matter Alliance. We are encouraged, knowing that much needed awareness and change is being initiated to enhance the maternal health and reproductive experience for Black women and Black birthing people everywhere.”

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH): “The maternal health crisis in the United States results from a long-plagued healthcare system entrenched in institutionalized racism and implicit bias. By adopting this resolution, we ask Congress and our government to prioritize the health and well-being of black women and birthing people in America.”

National Black Midwives Alliance: “We at National Black Midwives Alliance declare that Black midwives, as keepers of the sanctity of Black family health, are crucial to healing and resolving the Black maternal and infant morbidity and mortality crisis. We demand full access to joy, autonomy and our right to health.”

National Partnership for Women & Families: “We are proud to support Black Maternal Health Week 2023 and applaud this year’s compelling and deeply resonant theme of Our Bodies Belong to Us: Restoring Black Autonomy and Joy,” said Jocelyn Frye, President of the National Partnership for Women & Families. “For generations, Black women have fought for the freedom to preserve their bodily autonomy, to decide for themselves whether or when to become a parent, and to shape the birthing experience which best fits their needs. The National Partnership is indebted to the Black Mamas Matter Alliance for reminding us that—in the midst of the ongoing struggle to push back against efforts to control Black mother’s bodies—we should remember to celebrate the profound sense of joy that parenthood can bring.”

National Perinatal Task Force, Commonsense Childbirth Inc.: “We fight on in solidarity until our goal of perinatal justice, safety, quality and equity is achieved for every person, every time.”

Perinatal Health Equity Initiative: “It is past time to move this forward. We can no longer stand by while Black women continue to die.”

Shafia Monroe Consulting/Birthing CHANGE: “Black Maternal Health Week is a call to action to stop the preventable deaths for Black women who choose to be mothers.”

SisterReach and SisterReach Illinois: “SisterReach and SisterReach Illinois stand as Kindred Partners of the Black Mamas Matter Alliance as strong supporters of Black mothers and Pregnant Capable People because it is our duty to center those who are most vulnerable of



systemic and intentional medical and racial violence. One of the reproductive justice core principles includes an individual's human right to a quality of life that is sustainable before, during, and after they give birth. This is not the current environment Black mothers and pregnant capable people navigate across this country. BMHW is an act of curating joy as much as it is an act of resistance. Black Mamas Matter, and always will.”

Sisters in Loss: “We are excited about the fight to continue to save Black moms and babies and those who have suffered from loss and infertility diagnosis!”