

BLKMATERNALHEALTHWEEK.COM

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK 2026

APRIL 11-17, 2026



April 11, 2026

Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, Majority Leader John Thune, Speaker Mike Johnson, and Members of Congress:

The **81** undersigned organizations and individuals are in full support of the **2026 Black Maternal Health Week Resolution** led by Representative Alma Adams (NC-12), Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14), and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ).

This year marks the **ninth anniversary** of the Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW) campaign. Founded and led by the BMMA, Inc. (Black Mamas Matter Alliance), BMHW is a nationally recognized week-long campaign to promote education, awareness, activism, and community building intended to: deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the US; amplify community-driven policy, research, and care solutions; center the voices of Black Mamas, women, families, and stakeholders; provide a national platform for Black-led entities and efforts on maternal health, birth and reproductive justice; and enhance community organizing on Black maternal health.

Held annually on April 11-17, Black Maternal Health Week has been officially recognized by the White House for the last four years. The month of April is recognized in the United States as National Minority Health Month – a month-long initiative to advance health equity across the country on behalf of all racial and ethnic minorities. Additionally, we are joining dozens of global organizations who are fighting to end maternal mortality globally in recognizing April 11th as the International Day for Maternal Health and Rights.

The 2026 Black Maternal Health Week (#BMHW26) theme is “Rooted in Justice & Joy.”

Join in celebration as we mark 2026, recognizing BMMA's 10-year anniversary. We honor the power of our collective movement, nurturing thriving families and shaping a liberated future rooted in justice, healing, and joy. This milestone theme reflects the strength and resilience of Black-led perinatal, maternal, and reproductive health organizations that have cultivated change and healing across communities. It acknowledges the enduring legacies of systemic oppression, reproductive injustices, and health inequities that continue to impact Black Mamas and birthing people; while calling for a liberated future rooted in restoration, justice, and joy.

The Black Maternal Health Week Resolution describes the state of the maternal health crisis in the United States, which disproportionately impacts Black women and birthing people. According to the 2023 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report, the maternal mortality rate for Black women in the United States have continuously increased with 50.3 deaths per 100,000 live births while rates decreased significantly for White-non-Hispanic, Hispanic, and Asian women¹. The high rates of maternal mortality among Black women and birthing people span across socioeconomic levels and have been further exacerbated by the lack of prenatal and postnatal healthcare and provider access. Structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities contribute significantly to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing people.

The 2026 Black Maternal Health Week Resolution outlines policy recommendations voiced by the perinatal, maternal, and reproductive workforce that are working with birthing people from all communities, implement evidence-based practices and solutions that incorporate the true needs, wants, and desires of Black women and birthing people that can resolve the maternal health crisis. Congress must work to prioritize and engage Black women and birthing people in policy and program development and implementation. With the support of the undersigned organizations and of our Congressional champions, we believe we can build a world in which Black Mamas have the rights, respect, and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy.

Sincerely,

BMMA, Inc. (Black Mamas Matter Alliance)
4Kira4Moms, Inc
A Better Balance
Abortion Care Network
Alabama Prison Birth Project
Alexis Alsup
All* Above All
American Association of Birth Centers
American College of Nurse-Midwives
Amplify Georgia Collaborative
Ancient Song, Inc.

¹Hoyert DL. Maternal mortality rates in the United States, 2023. NCHS Health E-Stats. 2025. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc/174577>

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Baobab Birth Collective
Black Feminist Future
Black Maternal Health Federal Policy Collective
Black Women for Wellness
Black Women's Health Imperative
Bloom Collective
California Black Women's Health Project
Center for Maternal Health Equity
Center for Reproductive Rights
Cherishing Life Beginnings Divine Mother Foundation LLC
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Commonsense Childbirth Inc.
Desert Star Institute for Family Planning, Inc
Destiny S, WomBeyond Doula Services
Diversity Uplifts Inc.
Dr. Sayida Uplifts, LLC.
Dr. Zsakeba Henderson
DwanElani DBA Mermama Birthwork Services
Every Mother Counts
Feminist Center for Reproductive Liberation
Frontera Fund
Frontline Doulas
Fund Texas Choice
Georgia Black Doula Network
Georgia Legislative Black Caucus
HEART
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
InnerLight Holistic Doula & Perinatal Consulting, LLC
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Jamarah Amani, Southern Birth Justice Network
Janita Wiley, LMSW
Medical Students for Choice
Middle Georgia 4 Choice
Mirae Insights, LLC
MomsRising
Most Beautiful W.O.M.B. Inc

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Partnership for Women and Families
New Voices for Reproductive Justice
Nicole Clark Consulting, LLC
Not On My Watch Consulting Partners
Okunsola M. Amadou, Qiana Lewis
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
Oshun Family Center
Our Justice
PEACE FOR MOMS
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Remnant Community Outreach, Inc.
Reproductive Freedom for All
Research!America
Sankofa Birthworkers' Collective of the Inland Empire
Shades of Blue Project
Sisters in Loss
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective Board of Directors
SiX Action
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW!, Inc.
Speaking of Birth
Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity
Summit Medical Associates P.C.
Teonia Burton, LM CPM
The Melanated Mammary Atlas
The Social Justice Center
We Testify
Women Engaged
Women's Health Specialists
MomsRising

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² CDC, Division of Reproductive Health <https://www.cdc.gov/earher/pregnancy-related-deaths/index.html>