

KAMALA D. HARRIS
U.S. Senator for California



Maternal CARE Act of 2019

Black women are dying in pregnancy and childbirth across America at astounding rates. The United States is one of only thirteen countries in the world where the rate of maternal mortality is now worse than it was 25 years ago. For Black women, the risk of death from pregnancy-related causes is a staggering three to four times higher than for white women. Black women are also twice as likely to suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications. This disparity transcends income and education levels, and can't be explained away by risk factors such as genetics or lack of health care access.

Health equity for Black women can only happen if we recognize and address persistent biases in our health system and do more to ensure women have access to culturally competent, holistic care to reduce preventable maternal mortality.

Accordingly, Senator Kamala D. Harris (D-CA) is reintroducing the **Maternal Care Access and Reducing Emergencies (Maternal CARE) Act**. The Maternal CARE Act is led in the House by Rep. Alma Adams (NC).

First introduced in 2018, the bill tackles racial disparities in maternal health by making game-changing investments. The Maternal Care Access and Reducing Emergencies (Maternal CARE) Act will:

- Create a new **\$25 million** program to fight racial bias in maternal health care. The new grant program will be directed to medical schools, nursing schools, and other health professional training programs to support evidence-based implicit training that will improve care for Black women by reducing bias in judgment or behavior.
- Allocate **\$125 million** to identify high-risk pregnancies, and provide mothers with the culturally competent care and resources they need. The new grant program will help states implement pregnancy medical home demonstration projects to develop and carry out pregnancy medical home (PMH) programs. These programs improve care by incentivizing maternal health care providers to deliver integrated health care services to pregnant women and new mothers and reduce adverse maternal health outcomes, maternal deaths, and racial health disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity.
- Help medical schools incorporate bias recognition in clinical skills testing by directing the National Academy of Medicine to study and make recommendations.

The Maternal CARE Act is supported by the American College of Nurse-Midwives, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Black Women Birthing Justice, Black Women's Health Imperative, Center for Reproductive Rights, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Commonsense Childbirth - National Perinatal Task Force, Every Mother Counts, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, March of Dimes, National Association to Advance Black Birth, National Birth Equity Collaborative, National Black Midwives Alliance, National Health Law Program, National Partnership for Women & Families, National WIC Association, National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, WomenHeart, and 1,000 Days.