

# BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

APRIL 11-17, 2023

#BMHW23



## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

**Find Your Representatives:** <https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/>

**Subject:** Advancing Black Maternal Health in [city/state]

**Message:**

Greetings,

My name is [name] from [city, state] and I am a constituent of [legislator name]. I am writing to you today about the worsening maternal health crisis in the United States, which disproportionately impacts Black women and birthing people. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women in the United States are 2.6 times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes and suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications twice as often as white women. The high rates of maternal mortality among Black women and birthing people span across socioeconomic levels and have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

This is unacceptable. We need our legislators to enact policies that ensure Black women and birthing people have the rights, respect, and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy. These policies include Momnibus packages, postpartum Medicaid coverage for a full year, workforce development for Black Midwives, doulas, and lactation support providers, and more. As a constituent of [legislator name], I am calling on my representatives to work with their colleagues to advance Black Maternal Health through policy change.