
SUPPORT FOR THE PERINATAL WORKFORCE ACT OF 2023

“The leadership shown by Senator Baldwin and Congresswoman Moore comes at a critical time, when maternal mortality continues to worsen, especially in Black and Brown communities. UW Health is deeply committed to expanding and supporting the diversity of the perinatal workforce, and urges Congress to take up and pass this life saving legislation.”

– **Dr. Ellen Hartenbach, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.**

“The Perinatal Workforce Act is the best investment for improved maternal-child health outcomes for pregnant and birthing people in our State. The need to increase the number of maternity care providers and non-clinical perinatal health workers who offer culturally congruent care and support during and after pregnancy will result in improved and better birth outcomes. AABN fully supports this bill and will continue to support this (and other) legislative efforts that allow Black women reproductive autonomy and respectful and dignified birth experiences.”

– **Dalvery Blackwell, Executive Director & Co-founder of African American Breastfeeding Network**

“I applaud U.S. Senator Baldwin and U.S. Representative Moore for taking action to grow and diversify the perinatal health workforce to improve maternal health outcomes through the Perinatal Workforce Act. Increased access to diverse maternal care teams ensures every mother has a healthy pregnancy and positive birth experience and every infant lives a long, healthy life.”

– **Kirsten Johnson, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.**

“As a mom and fierce advocate for maternal healthcare access in Wisconsin, I am proud to again support the Perinatal Workforce Act! Every pregnant person deserves affordable, accessible healthcare, and through legislation like the Perinatal Workforce Act, we can take critical steps to address maternal health, and the racial disparities in maternal healthcare. I want to extend my gratitude to Senator Baldwin and Congresswoman Moore for their work on this legislation.”

– **Wisconsin State Representative Robyn Vining.**

"For decades, we have had to endure the effects of systemic inequity on Black maternal health and Black infant health in the United States. In 2023, it is beyond alarming that these inequities continue to produce disproportionate outcomes for Black families, especially here in Wisconsin, where we lead the nation in Black infant mortality. Studies have continually shown how culturally congruent care not only improves health outcomes for Black families, but that it also positions them to thrive. The Perinatal Workforce Act is a remarkable step in the right direction

to prioritize and strengthen both access and care for Black families, whilst removing barriers and promoting health equity by directly addressing social determinants. This legislation will be a landmark for change in the United States, in the interest of Black families. We are in full support of this bill and look forward to working with Senator Baldwin and Congresswoman Moore to advance this much needed work in our state."

– Black Child Development Institute – Wisconsin.

“The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness stands in firm support of the Perinatal Workforce Act to expand a diverse and qualified workforce among our nation's maternal health providers. As an organization supporting Black mothers and birthing people through both community-based doula and community health worker support, we know firsthand the urgency, necessity and effectiveness of culturally congruent maternity care teams, both inside and beyond the clinic, to radically improve the pregnancy and birth outcomes of Black mothers.

“As a partner with major health systems on large-scale systemic efforts to improve Black maternal and child health in Wisconsin where we have among the highest racial birth inequities and Black infant mortality rates in the nation, we know that racially and ethnically diverse maternal care providers like doulas, midwives, nurses, and Community Health Workers can make a life or death difference in the perinatal health and care of mothers and babies.

“Our work and data are demonstrating that culturally congruent providers make care teams more effective in addressing pregnant patients' needs. This leads to significant reductions in birth complications, avoidance of unnecessary medical interventions in the birthing process, better infant birth weights, and stronger collaboration and partnership between patients and all providers. The Perinatal Workforce Act is a proactive and data-backed solution to a very real and pressing public health problem, and represents a winning pathway to remedying our nation's maternal health crisis.”

– Lisa Peyton-Caire, CEO & President of the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness.