

FACT SHEET: Republicans Are Ripping Care from Moms and Exacerbating the Nation's Maternal Health Crisis This Black Maternal Health Week

In the wealthiest country in the world, American women suffer the [highest rates](#) of maternal mortality — the vast majority of complications are preventable with timely, high-quality care. But this crisis falls hardest on Black women, who are nearly [three times](#) as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes as white women. These disparities are the outcome of deep inequities in access to health care, [structural racism](#), and a system that too often fails Black women at every stage of pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum recovery. These deaths are preventable, yet instead of preventing them and improving maternal health, Republicans are stripping coverage that mothers rely on, worsening an already deadly crisis.

Since President Trump returned to office, the GOP has slashed over \$1 trillion from Medicaid, which pays for over [40 percent](#) of births in the United States, threatening coverage for millions of low-income mothers and access to health care providers. More than 30 labor and delivery units have shuttered, and [over 140 more are at risk](#) of closing their doors due to Republican health care cuts. As access to care shrinks, the consequences are clear: fewer providers, longer distances to care, and more preventable deaths among all mothers.

Democrats, however, are working to improve the health of new moms in our nation. Representatives Lauren Underwood and Alma Adams and Senator Cory Booker reintroduced the Momnibus to fight maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities that affect mothers of all backgrounds.

The Momnibus Would Save Lives. The Momnibus package includes legislation that makes critical investments in social determinants of health that affect pregnant people and new moms and families, supports moms, including support for maternal mental health, and investments in research to reduce preventable causes of maternal deaths. Representatives Lauren Underwood and Alma Adams, who are the co-chairs of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, and Senator Cory Booker reintroduced the [Momnibus](#) this past March to fight maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities that affect mothers of all backgrounds. The Momnibus is comprised of 14 different pieces of legislation that are aimed at improving maternal health and reducing mortality rates. It includes:

- Critical investments in social determinants of health that affect new and expectant moms;
- Extending WIC eligibility during postpartum and breastfeeding periods;
- Funding for community-based organizations working to improve maternal health outcomes;
- Funding for maternal health care for veterans;
- Investments in a culturally competent perinatal workforce;
- Improved data collection processes and quality measures to understand the causes of the maternal health crisis in America;
- Support for maternal mental health conditions;

- Improved maternal health care and support for incarcerated moms;
- Invest in digital tools to improve maternal health outcomes in underserved areas;
- Promote innovative payment methods to incentivize high-quality maternal care;
- Investments in federal programs to support maternal health during public health emergencies;
- Investments in community-based initiatives to reduce climate change-related risks for moms and babies;
- Investments in research to reduce preventable causes of maternal deaths; and
- Promotion of maternal vaccinations to protect healthy moms and babies.

Republican Cuts to Medicaid Will Lead to More Black Mothers Needlessly Losing Their Lives. Around [41 percent](#) of all births in the United States were financed by Medicaid, but this number increases to [65 percent](#) of births from Black mothers. With [80 percent](#) of maternal mortality deaths being preventable, the GOP's draconian cuts to Medicaid will only increase the disparity in maternal mortality rates and lead to more needless deaths among Black mothers and children. Hundreds of thousands of pregnant women across the country rely on Medicaid for prenatal visits, ultrasounds, and screenings for conditions such as preeclampsia, gestational diabetes, and postpartum depression, but [face loss of coverage](#) thanks to the big, ugly bill.

Trump's Medicaid Cuts Are Shuttering Maternity Wards And Exacerbating America's Maternal Health Crisis. [Over 800 hospitals, nursing homes, maternity wards, and other critical providers](#) nationwide have shuttered, are at risk of closing, or have cut essential services, forcing more Americans to travel further for maternity care and face longer wait times in emergency rooms to get care for complications. According to Public Citizen, the hospitals that serve [communities with a larger share of Black and Hispanic residents](#) are at greater risk of being forced to close or cut services such as maternity care as a result of GOP cuts to Medicaid. At a time when [35 percent of counties already lack birthing hospitals and birth centers](#), GOP cuts have shuttered 30 more labor and delivery units and put [over 140 at risk](#) of closing their doors since the passage of the big, ugly bill. Medicaid cuts have also [stopped](#) moms from having the support they need during childbirth. States are dropping programs to fund and reimburse doulas who assist moms through labor and provide support throughout their pregnancy. Moms nationwide are being left without the care they need due to Medicaid cuts.

The Trump Administration Guttled Critical Programs and Lifesaving Research for Black Moms. The Trump administration launched an assault on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) – leaving black moms in the dust by destroying decades of research and progress that could save lives. In his latest proposed budget, Trump called for \$6 billion in cuts to the National Institutes of Health and for cutting maternal and child health programs by over [\\$800 million](#). The Trump administration is pushing to [eliminate](#) many essential programs entirely, including the Healthy Start program, which serves mothers and infants in high-risk communities, Maternal Mortality Review Committees, Perinatal Quality Collaboratives, and other programs that track maternal mortality and share solutions for reducing it. DOGE also canceled funding for several research projects that had the potential to save the lives of countless Black mothers. For example, the Trump administration [defunded](#) research at Morehouse School of Medicine on how to improve

the health of Black pregnant and postpartum women, research on how stress influences [racial and ethnic differences](#) in maternal health outcomes for women with hypertensive disorders, and studies on [uterine fibroids](#) that disproportionately impact Black women. Trump's Supreme Court undermined affirmative action, and his administration is targeting DEI at medical schools, making it harder than ever to increase the number of Black physicians and health care providers in the health workforce, which can help [reduce](#) health disparities. The Trump administration is undermining Black maternal health from all sides.