



**BlueCross BlueShield  
Association**

An Association of Independent  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans

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February 2, 2021

The Honorable Lauren Underwood  
Co-Chair  
Black Maternal Health Caucus  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Alma Adams  
Co-Chair  
Black Maternal Health Caucus  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwomen Underwood and Adams:

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) strongly supports efforts to improve maternal health outcomes and would like to commend the Black Maternal Health Caucus for re-introducing the “Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act” in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

BCBSA represents the 36 independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies nationwide that collectively provide health care coverage to one in three Americans. BCBS companies are working with physician, hospital and community partners to lead initiatives that break down barriers, help address disparities and close critical access gaps for safer and healthier pregnancies, deliveries and postpartum experiences.

Despite tremendous health advances, the United States continues to have the highest maternal death rate of any developed nation. Across the country, maternity care deserts, continued disparities in the rates of health insurance coverage, affordability concerns, and systemic racism and bias are threatening women’s access to necessary care before, during and after childbirth. These barriers, including challenges introduced and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have contributed to substantial racial disparities facing African American women.

BCBSA strongly supports the updated “Momnibus” package as an important step to improving the health outcomes of pregnant women and mothers, particularly African American and Native American women, incarcerated women, female veterans and others. The updated package also takes critical steps to address the risks to pregnant women due to the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, and works toward increasing maternal immunization rates during the pandemic and beyond.

We thank the Caucus for sponsoring this important legislation and look forward to continuing to work with lawmakers to advance these proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justine Handelman".

Justine Handelman  
Senior Vice President, Office of Policy and Representation