

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce
Committee
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce
Committee U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chairwoman Anna Eshoo
Chairwoman, Energy and Commerce House
Subcommittee
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce House
Subcommittee
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 7th, 2021

Re: Endorsement of *H.R. 909/S.484 - The Moms Matter Act*

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, Subcommittee Chairwoman Eshoo, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Guthrie:

We, the undersigned national behavioral health, maternal health, and health care professional organizations are writing to inform you of our strong support of the bipartisan Moms Matter Act H.R. 909/S. 484.

While up to 1 in 5¹ mothers of any race can face mental health challenges during pregnancy and after childbirth, women of color are especially vulnerable in part due to facing higher degrees of stress², including often facing lower levels of economic stability³.

Black mothers are also less likely to receive treatment⁴.

This timely bill provides critical investments in programs to expand access to treatments and support for maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders for individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups⁵ by:

1. Supporting an increase in the behavioral health workforce, specifically increasing the numbers of Black and Minority behavioral health and substance use disorder providers
2. Investing in community based and minority led maternal mental health support services led by or in partnership with community-based organizations.

The Moms Matter Act addresses the need for culturally congruent collaborative maternity care

¹ <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/mental-behavioral-health/mdrbd>

² study 6. Gee GC, Ford CL. Structural racism and health inequities. Du Bois Rev. 2011 Apr; 8(1): 115–132.

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2835803/>

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3733216/>

⁵ https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=42-USC-591738112-1708089047&term_occur=999&term_src=title:42:chapter:6A:subchapter:XV:section:300u-6

models; providing culturally congruent services and supports for people with maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders in response to “Substantive data from consumer and family self-reports, ethnic match, and ethnic-specific services outcome studies suggest that tailoring services to the specific needs of these [ethnic] groups will improve utilization and outcomes”⁶ as written in the The Surgeon General's report, *Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity*.

Additionally, The Moms Matter Act will supply funding through a grant program to grow and diversify the maternal mental and behavioral healthcare workforce. This section will mirror the language in the Perinatal Workforce Act (and it has the same funding amount of \$75 million) but focuses specifically on growing and diversifying the workforce of *mental and behavioral health care providers who will specialize in maternal mental health conditions or substance use disorders*. “Culture is important in substance abuse treatment because clients' experiences of culture precede and influence their clinical experience.”⁷

Many individuals and families in this country are grappling with mental health conditions and addictions, and it is critical that they find the culturally competent, educated care they need, particularly now. We urge you to support H.R. 909/S. 484 The Moms Matter Act.

Sincerely,

Shades of Blue Project
Black Mamas Matters Alliance
2020 Mom
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Birth Centers
American Association of Suicidology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
Amniotic Fluid Embolism Foundation
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
BAE Culture
The Bloom Foundation
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Cherished Mom
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP)
Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

⁶ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64095/#> p. 36

⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64095/>

Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
Every Mother Counts
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health & Social Justice
GPS Group Peer Support LLC
HealthyWomen
International OCD Foundation
Jace's Journey
Johns Hopkins Women's Mood Disorders Center
Lamaze International
Life House Lactation & Perinatal Services, LLC
Lifeline4Moms, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Marcé of North America
March of Dimes
Massachusetts PPD Fund
Maternal and Child Health Access
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
Maternal Mental Health NOW
Melinated Moms
Mental Health America
Mental Health America of Ohio
Mom Congress
Momma Mosaic
MomsRising
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National League for Nursing
National Partnership for Women & Families
North American Society for Psychosocial Obstetrics & Gynecology (NASPOG)
Perinatal Support Washington
Postpartum Resource Center of New York
Postpartum Support International
Postpartum Support International Kansas
Postpartum Support Virginia
Preeclampsia Foundation
Psychotherapy Action Network Advocacy
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium
Return to Zero: HOPE
Sisters in Loss
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
The Colette Louise Tisdahl Foundation
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The University of North Carolina Center for Women's Mood Disorders
WellSeek

Women's Health Activist Movement (WHAMglobal)