

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 5<sup>1</sup> 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 stress<sup>2</sup>, including often facing lower levels of economic stability<sup>3</sup>.

Black mothers are also less likely to receive treatment<sup>4</sup>.

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 groups<sup>5</sup> 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

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> [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](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”<sup>6</sup> 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.”<sup>7</sup>

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

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

<sup>7</sup> <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)