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- 18-08 (29)
- 18-09 (44)
- 18-10 (40)
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- 19-03 (59)

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### Earlier This Week I Launched the Black Maternal Health Caucus

Office of Congresswoman Alma Adams [repalmaadamsnc12@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 10:35 AM  
To: [Steve Johnston](#)

### Black Maternal Health Caucus Launched This Week



Dear Friend,

**Earlier this week, Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and I launched the Black Maternal Health Caucus** to improve maternal health for all Black women in the United States. The aim of the Black Maternal Health Caucus is to raise awareness within Congress, to establish Black maternal health as a national priority, and explore and

advocate for effective, evidence- based, culturally-competent policies and best practices for health outcomes for Black mothers.

The United States has the worst maternal death rates in the developed world, at 18 deaths per 100,000 live births. The maternal mortality rate is alarmingly higher among black women, at 40 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Black women experience significantly worse maternal health outcomes, regardless of their education and income. They experience higher rates of maternal complications and infant mortality. They are twice as likely to lose an infant to premature death, and it has not improved for more than 30 years.

As a Black mother and grandmother, I am proud to launch the Black Maternal Health Caucus to ensure that Black women and infants have the rights, respect and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy.

Regards,

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress  
Representing North Carolina's 12th Congressional District

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Office of Congresswoman Alma Adams | 801 E. Morehead St, Suite 150, Charlotte, NC 28202

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