

Adams Urges Biden Administration, Congress to Include Maternal Health Equity in Reconciliation Bill



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Adams, Underwood, Booker, Kelly, and Beatty Urge President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader Schumer to Include Critical Investments to Advance Maternal Health Equity in Final Build Back Better Package

Members are urging Leadership to include investments in the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and year-long postpartum Medicaid coverage

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a letter addressed to **President Joe Biden**, **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi**, and **Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer**, **Congresswomen Alma Adams (NC-12)**, **Lauren Underwood (IL-14)**, **Robin Kelly (IL-02)**, and Congressional Black Caucus **Chair Joyce Beatty (OH-03)**, along with **Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)**, are pushing to ensure that investments from the **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act** are included in full in the final **Build Back Better Act** package. Members are also urging the leaders to build on the critical progress made through the **American Rescue Plan Act** by investing in the permanent expansion of year-long postpartum Medicaid coverage in every state.

“Permanently expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage and advancing comprehensive investments in the Momnibus will uphold a principle that is fundamental to the Build Back Better Plan: that in America, every family has a right to thrive—a principle that begins with a safe and healthy pregnancy and birth. We must include these critical maternal health equity investments in the final Build Back Better reconciliation package.” **the Members wrote.**

If passed, the Momnibus and postpartum Medicaid provisions in the Build Back Better package would be historic **investments to save moms’ lives, end racial and ethnic maternal health disparities, and advance birth equity** across the United States. The letter echoes previous outreach to Leadership by more than 160 Members of the House and Senate advocating for the inclusion of the Momnibus and yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage in a reconciliation package.

The United States has the **highest rate of pregnancy-related mortality among high-income countries**, and the only rate that is rising. Maternal mortality rates for Black and Native Americans are 2-4 times higher than rates for white Americans, and Hispanic and AAPI people also experience disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity. The **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act** includes 12 bills to build on postpartum Medicaid coverage expansion and comprehensively address the drivers of the maternal health crisis. The Momnibus makes critical investments in addressing social determinants of health, funding community-based organizations, growing and diversifying the perinatal workforce, and improving data collection processes.

[Full text of the letter can be found here.](#)

Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. is serving her fourth full term in Congress. She represents the 12th District of North Carolina, which includes parts of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. In 2018, she introduced the first Black Maternal Health Week resolution with then-Senator **Kamala Harris**. In 2019, she co-founded the Black Maternal Health Caucus with **Rep. Lauren Underwood (IL-14)**. In March 2020, Adams, along with Harris and Underwood, introduced the **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act** for the first time, and in February 2021 reintroduced an expanded version of the package with **Senator Cory Booker**. Adams is a mother of two and a grandmother of four.

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