

March 5, 2020

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
United States House of Representatives
1118 Longwood House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Underwood:

The American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) strongly supports the *Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2020*, which offers a comprehensive approach to addressing the black maternal health crisis in the United States.

AONL is the professional organization of the 10,000 nurse leaders who manage and provide patient care across the health care continuum. AONL is a subsidiary of the American Hospital Association.

The United States currently has the worst maternal death rates in the developed world and an alarmingly higher rate among black women. These horrifying statistics highlight the urgent need to address the disparities in maternal health care. The Momnibus Act recognizes that in order to achieve health equity, we must address the social determinates of health.

The Momnibus Act invests in community-based organizations, supports care coordination, and collects data on maternal mortality and morbidity in minority and underserved populations. It also provides funding to diversify the maternal and perinatal nursing workforce to reflect the patient population served, as well as creates a perinatal care alternative payment model demonstration project and ends the shacking of pregnant incarcerated individuals.

We applaud your efforts and leadership as the co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus in addressing the maternal health crisis. We look forward to supporting your efforts in passing this important legislation. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Jo Ann Webb at jwebb@aha.org.

Sincerely,



Robyn Begley
Chief Executive Officer, AONL
Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer, AHA