



**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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Feb. 5, 2021

The Honorable Alma Adams  
Co-Chair  
Black Maternal Health Caucus  
2436 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lauren Underwood  
Co-Chair  
Black Maternal Health Caucus  
1130 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Adams, Representative Underwood, and Senator Booker:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) I thank you for your leadership in introducing the Black Maternal Health Momnibus of 2021 (“Momnibus”). The AAMC and academic medicine remain committed to addressing the maternal health crisis in the United States and believe that the Momnibus is a critical step toward not only preventing maternal deaths but also addressing the role of social determinants of health and health disparities in maternal health outcomes.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 155 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; more than 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America’s medical schools and teaching hospitals and their more than 179,000 full-time faculty members, 92,000 medical students, 140,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

As you know, the maternal death rate in the United States is significantly higher than other, similar, countries – and it is estimated that over 60% of pregnancy related deaths are preventable. Outcomes are even worse for Black women, who are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than non-Hispanic white women, and who experience the impact of these disparities even when controlling for education and income. The AAMC believes that the Momnibus is an important vehicle to address this crisis and the racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women across the country.

The AAMC is pleased to see that the Momnibus would make investments to address social determinants of health and grow and train a diverse perinatal workforce. As the legislation moves forward, the AAMC looks forward to working with the Black Maternal Health Caucus to

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identify opportunities to build on these provisions through additional programs modeled on successful existing programs that promote interprofessional education. The AAMC also appreciates that the legislation contains efforts to ensure that patients are heard in the clinical setting, improve data collection, promote telehealth, and develop innovative payment models. A multipronged approach involving multisector partnerships is key to addressing these issues, and the AAMC is pleased to see that the Momnibus makes an effort to be inclusive in this way.

The AAMC applauds your commitment to ending preventable maternal deaths and closing the gap on racial and ethnic health outcomes for mothers. We stand ready to work with you and a diverse coalition of stakeholders to advance these critical priorities. If you have any questions, please contact Ally Perleoni ([aperleoni@aamc.org](mailto:aperleoni@aamc.org)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Fisher, J.D.  
Chief Public Policy Officer