



# BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

*at the Capitol*

## TOOLKIT 2026

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# BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK AT THE CAPITOL TOOLKIT

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*The health of mothers reflects the overall health of our society, and the state of maternal health in PA is urgent. As such, the **Pennsylvania Black Maternal Health Caucus** is committed to make the entire commonwealth aware of this important week and the issues that must be addressed through strategic policy efforts. The work of the PBMHC could not be accomplished without the collective support of our community partners, stakeholders, legislators, and advocates.*

## About the Pennsylvania Black Maternal Health Caucus (PBMHC)

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The PBMHC is a coalition of legislators and stakeholders working together to address issues related to Black maternal health in the commonwealth. The Caucus is focused on developing and advancing policies that aim to improve maternal health outcomes for Black women, who experience disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity compared to other racial and ethnic groups. The caucus strives to raise awareness about these disparities, advocate for legislation to address the root causes, and collaborate with stakeholders to implement solutions that promote equitable and holistic maternal health care for Black women.

Established in 2023, the PBMHC is a testament to the dedication of stakeholders and legislators to address the disturbing trends of Black maternal mortality and morbidity in our state. As the third state coalition of its kind in the nation, our mission is clear: to pass the Pennsylvania MOMNIBUS, a legislative package making critical investments and policy changes to improve maternal health outcomes in Pennsylvania.

## About Black Mamas Matter Alliance & Black Maternal Health Week

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Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW) was founded in 2018 by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA) to promote awareness, advocacy, and action around the experience of Black birthing. Held annually from April 11th to 17th, BMHW intentionally takes place during National Minority Health Month and begins on April 11th to recognize the International Day for Maternal Health and Rights.

This year's theme is **Rooted in Joy & Justice**, acknowledging the enduring legacies of systemic oppression, reproductive injustices, and health inequities that continue to impact Black Mamas and birthing people, while calling for a liberated future rooted in restoration, justice, and joy.

BMMA serves as an alliance of Black Women-led entities and multi-disciplinary professionals working to further birth justice and human rights. Together, BMMA partners recognize and support those who care for Black families and communities, whether they have given birth or not. To learn more about the work and impact of BMMA or BMHW, visit: <https://blackmamasmatter.org/>.

# Black Maternal Health Week at the Capitol 2026

PA legislators, stakeholders, and community members will gather in the Pennsylvania State Capitol to recognize Black Maternal Health Week 2026. Each day of BMHW at the Capitol has been thoughtfully curated to engage legislators and community members to understand the unique challenges of birthing in our Commonwealth.

## Day 1, Monday, April 13th

- 1:00PM: PADC Luncheon
- 2:00PM: Welcome + Fireside Chat
- 4:00PM: BMHW 2026 Reception
- 6:00PM: PADC "The Ebony Canal" Film Screening

## Day 2, Tuesday, April 14th

- 9:30AM: Press Conference
- 11:00AM: Group Photo
- 12:00PM: Brunch & Learn
- 1:00PM: Policy Hearing
- 2:30PM: Legislative Meeting

Find out more at [Black Maternal Health Week at the Capitol](https://pahouse.com/bmh) (pahouse.com/bmh).



## The Pennsylvania MOMNIBUS 2.0

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Pittsburgh, April 25, 2025 – State Rep. La'Tasha D. Mayes and members of the Pennsylvania Black Maternal Health Caucus unveiled the PA MOMNIBUS 2.0 legislative package at the first statewide **PA Black Maternal Health Week Summit** that was held April 14-16 in Pittsburgh.

This groundbreaking summit featured three days of education, awareness, and action from legislators, Black mothers and birthing people, Black maternal health advocates, midwives, doulas and birth workers, health care providers and stakeholders.

“We celebrated Black Maternal Health Week 2025 in Pittsburgh because Black maternal health is on the rise in Pennsylvania and there is no better place than Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania to continue our legislative momentum through the PA MOMNIBUS,” said Mayes.

The following bills have been introduced by members of the PA Black Maternal Health Caucus:

- H.B. 1234: Blood pressure monitors coverage in Medicaid (Rep. La'Tasha D. Mayes).
- H.B. 1088: Blood pressure monitors coverage in private insurance (Rep. Mandy Steele).
- H.B. 1240: Maternal and Newborn Supply Kit pilot program (Rep. La'Tasha D. Mayes and Rep. Gina H. Curry).
- H.B. 432: Addressing maternal health deserts through maternal care access zones (Rep. Gina H. Curry).
- H.B. 1251: Midwifery practice innovation (Rep. Gina H. Curry).
- H.B. 707: Nursing parent rooms in state buildings (Rep. La'Tasha D. Mayes).
- H.B. 526: Pumping coverage in the Freedom to Breastfeed Act (Rep. Jennifer O'Mara).
- H.B. 1192: Moms and substance abuse diversion court (Rep. Chris Pielli).
- H.B. 1212: PA Dads Matter Act (Rep. Aerion Abney and Rep. Morgan Cephas).

“Driven by the statistic that 93.5% of maternal deaths in PA are preventable, my colleagues, Representative Gina H. Curry and Representative Morgan Cephas and I and the PA Black Maternal Health Caucus are working every day to change the disturbing trends of Black maternal mortality and morbidity in our Commonwealth,” said Mayes.

**ABOUT THE PA MOMNIBUS: [PA MOMNIBUS 2.0 \(pahouse.com/BMH/Legislation\)](https://pahouse.com/BMH/Legislation)**

**ABOUT THE FEDERAL BMHC MOMNIBUS: [Black Maternal Health Momnibus](#) | [Black Maternal Health Caucus \(house.gov\)](#)**

# The Pennsylvania MOMNIBUS 2.0

The PA MOMNIBUS is a comprehensive legislative package, crafted for Pennsylvania to directly confront the staggering rate of Black maternal mortality and morbidity in our Commonwealth. The PA MOMNIBUS addresses critical disparities in maternal healthcare, including measures that would improve access to essential services and eliminate maternal health deserts. The package of legislation would establish programs to tackle social determinants of health and provide essential resources and support to new moms and postpartum people. Together, these proposals represent a significant step toward promoting maternal health equity and ensuring the well-being of all moms and birthing people in Pennsylvania.

**PA MOMNIBUS 2.0**

**Addressing Maternal Health Deserts through Maternal Care Access Zones**

REP. CURRY | HB 432

PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

This graphic features a purple background with a circular portrait of Rep. Curry in the top right. The main text is in white and pink. A circular logo with a silhouette of a woman and the text 'PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS' is in the bottom left.

**PA MOMNIBUS 2.0**

**Midwifery Practice Innovation**

REP. CURRY | HB 1251

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**PA MOMNIBUS 2.0**

**Maternal & Newborn Supply Kit Pilot Program**

REP. MAYES & REP. CURRY | HB 1240

PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

This graphic features a purple background with circular portraits of Rep. Mayes and Rep. Curry in the top right. The main text is in white and pink. A circular logo with a silhouette of a woman and the text 'PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS' is in the bottom left. An image of a baby's feet in shoes is in the bottom right.

**PA MOMNIBUS 2.0**

**Blood Pressure Monitors Coverage in Medicaid**

REP. MAYES | HB 1234

PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

This graphic features a purple background with a circular portrait of Rep. Mayes in the top right. The main text is in white and pink. A circular logo with a silhouette of a woman and the text 'PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS' is in the bottom left. An image of a blood pressure monitor is in the bottom right.

**PA MOMNIBUS 2.0**

**PA Dads Matter Act**

REP. ABNEY & REP. CEPHAS | HB 1212

PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

This graphic features a purple background with circular portraits of Rep. Abney and Rep. Cephas in the top right. The main text is in white and pink. A circular logo with a silhouette of a woman and the text 'PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS' is in the bottom left. An image of a family is in the bottom right.

**PA MOMNIBUS 2.0**

**Moms and Substance Abuse Diversion Court**

REP. PIELLI | HB 1192

PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

This graphic features a purple background with a circular portrait of Rep. Pielli in the top right. The main text is in white and pink. A circular logo with a silhouette of a woman and the text 'PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS' is in the bottom left. An image of women talking is in the bottom right.

**PA MOMNIBUS 2.0**

**Blood Pressure Monitors Coverage in Private Insurance**

REP. STEELE | HB 1088

PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

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**PA MOMNIBUS 2.0**

**Nursing Parent Rooms in State Buildings**

REP. MAYES | HB 707

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**PA MOMNIBUS 2.0**

**Pumping Coverage in the Freedom to Breastfeed Act**

REP. O'MARA | HB 526

PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS

This graphic features a purple background with a circular portrait of Rep. O'Mara in the top right. The main text is in white and pink. A circular logo with a silhouette of a woman and the text 'PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS' is in the bottom left. An image of a breast pump is in the bottom right.

Download individual PA MOMNIBUS 2.0 Graphics here: <https://www.pahouse.com/BMH/Legislation>



# PA MOMNIBUS 2.0 PROGRESS REPORT

## HB 432

REP. GINA H. CURRY

Addressing maternal health deserts through maternal care access zones



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

## HB 526

REP. JENNIFER O'MARA

Pumping coverage in the Freedom to Breastfeed Act



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

## HB 707

REP. LA'TASHA D. MAYES

Nursing parent rooms in state buildings



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

## HB 1088

REP. MANDY STEELE

Blood pressure monitors coverage in private insurance



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

## HB 1192

REP. CHRIS PIELLI

Moms and substance abuse diversion court



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

## HB 1212

REP. ABNEY | REP. CEPHAS

PA Dads Matter Act



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

## HB 1234

REP. LA'TASHA D. MAYES

Blood pressure monitors coverage in Medicaid



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

## HB 1240

REP. MAYES | REP. CURRY

Maternal and Newborn Supply Kit pilot program



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

## HB 1628

REP. CEPHAS

Safeguarding Postpartum Medicaid Coverage through 1-year Postpartum



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

### REP. GINA H. CURRY'S BILL PACKAGE

## Expanding Midwifery Access & Authority for Healthier Communities

### HB 1251

Physical Therapy Practice Act granting nurse-midwives authority to refer patients



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

### HB 1851

Allowing certified nurse-midwives to complete fetal death certificates.



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

### REP. MAYES | REP. BROWN

Continuing Education in Trauma-Informed Maternity Care



Introduced Passed House Passed Senate Signed into Law

[PABlackMaternalHealth.com](http://PABlackMaternalHealth.com)

Enter the Bill Number & Subscribe for updates!



## Taking Action During & Beyond #BMHW26

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In addition to raising awareness and support for the PA MOMNIBUS, we encourage Legislators and stakeholders to work together to host community events and raise awareness of maternal health resources in their communities. During BMHW and beyond, you can take and build upon the following actions to make an impact in your neighborhood:

- Notify your network about the annual observance of Black Maternal Health Week and why the issue is important to you.
- Announce your involvement with the PBMHC and encourage others to join the movement.
- Send a message to your elected official to encourage their involvement in PBMHC and co-sponsorship of the PA MOMNIBUS.
- Share and attend maternal health events happening in your area, or across the commonwealth, or host your own! It's important to assess your community's needs, but many areas – urban, suburban, or rural – can benefit from events like community baby showers, pregnancy support groups, utility gift drives, education sessions, and more.

Review and share this toolkit and engage with the PBMHC on social media to encourage participation from stakeholders at all levels of the movement!

Feedback is always appreciated and necessary to develop the most impactful materials possible!

### Key Statistics

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- Despite declines in the maternal mortality rate in other parts of the world, the data collected under the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System has shown a steady increase in the maternal mortality rate in the United States. [Data from the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System | Maternal Mortality Prevention | CDC](#)
- Pregnancy-related complications result in appx. 700 deaths in the United States each year. For every pregnancy-related death, there are 70 severe maternal morbidity events, or unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short- or long-term consequences to someone's health. [Eliminating Preventable Maternal Mortality and Morbidity | ACOG](#)
- The maternal mortality rate for Pennsylvania in 2021 was 97 deaths per 100,000 live births
- 98% of pregnancy-associated deaths in Pennsylvania are considered preventable
- Black women in Pennsylvania are 2x more likely to experience pregnancy-related mortality, with a maternal mortality rate of 60 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2021 and are three times more likely to experience pregnancy-related mortality nationally. (PA Department of Health)

**Read the 2025 PA Maternal Mortality Review Committee Report here: [2025 Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Annual Report](#)**

**Read the 2024 PA Severe Maternal Morbidity Report here: [Severe Maternal Morbidity in Pennsylvania 2016-2022](#)**

## Get Social

### KEY HANDLES

@pablackmaternalhealth

@BlackMamasMatter

@padoulacommission

### KEY HASHTAGS

#BMHW26 #RootedinJusticeandJoy #PAMOMNIBUS

#BirthedForPA #BMHWAtTheCapitol #PBMHC

### SAMPLE MESSAGES

- During #BMHW24, let's amplify our voices in PA to advocate for policy reforms that address the systemic barriers to Black maternal health. Together, we can drive meaningful change and create a future where every birth is safe and supported. #PAMOMNIBUS#BirthedforPA
- Join the PBMHC in celebrating #BMHW26 with the theme "Rooted in Justice & Joy"! Let's fight together for healthy birth experiences for all Pennsylvania families. #PAMOMNIBUS #RootedinJusticeandJoy
- During #BMHW26, we honor the power, strength, and stories of Black women and families. Let's continue building momentum for policies that ensure safe, respectful, and equitable care at every stage of the journey. #PAMOMNIBUS #RootedinJusticeandJoy
- This Black Maternal Health Week, we're uplifting the #PAMOMNIBUS as a pathway to safer, more equitable birth outcomes in Pennsylvania. Join us in advocating for policies that meet the needs of Black families—because they deserve nothing less. #BMHW26 #RootedinJusticeandJoy

### AMPLIFY THE CALL!

- Share PBMHC posts, use hashtags & handles
- Tag your elected officials!
- Contact your legislators to make sure they co-sponsor the #PAMOMNIBUS. You can call, write/email and request meetings.
- Use your voice to raise awareness and take action.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Pennsylvania launched [\*Healthy Moms, Vibrant Futures: 2025 Maternal Health Strategic Action Plan\*](#). The plan seeks to build a Pennsylvania where mothers can trust that their pregnancy and postpartum experience will support good health and overall wellbeing for themselves, their children, and their families during the perinatal period and beyond.



Read more [here](#).

# PA BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS IMPACT STATEMENT

MARCH 2026



**The PA Black Maternal Health Caucus was created to build on the momentum of legislative victories and the increasing need for attention to maternal mortality and morbidity issues, particularly amongst Black families in PA. The caucus intends to:**

Boldly address the disturbing trends of Black maternal health and mortality in our Commonwealth through strategic, intersectional legislation and policy;

Create a collaborative and action-oriented legislative and policy space for Pennsylvania legislators, advocates and stakeholders; Introduce, advance, and pass the Pennsylvania MOMNIBUS.

On March 19th, 2024, members of the PBMHC announced the introduction of the Pennsylvania MOMNIBUS #BirtherForPA - a package of 8 bills focused on increasing access to care, eliminating maternal health deserts, and addressing social determinants of health. The Caucus has since introduced the PA MOMNIBUS 2.0.

As of October 22, 2024, the Caucus has passed five of the MOMNIBUS bills out of the Pennsylvania House and 2 bills have been enacted into law.

## Who is on the PA-BMHC?



52+ Legislators

45+ Stakeholders

1735+ Followers

## Policy & Legislation

Bills Passed **ACT 115 (2024) Medicaid Coverage for Doulas** **ACT 102 (2024) Perinatal & Postpartum Education** **ACT 5 (2023) Tracking Maternal Morbidity** **ACT 32 (2023) "Owen's Law" Expanding MA Coverage for Pasteurized Donor Human Milk** **ACT 47 (2023) Dignity for Incarcerated Women**

Administrative Action

Regional Women's Services Program

#OptInPA MA Extension from 6-weeks to 1-year

PA Doula Advisory Commission (PADAC)

PA Perinatal Doula Certification & MA Coverage for Doulas

PA DOC-DHS Doula Pilot Program

## Investing in Black Maternal Health



\$5 million 2025 Budget (Gov. Shapiro)

\$2.6 million 2024 Budget (Gov. Shapiro)

\$2.3 million 2023 Budget (Gov. Shapiro)

\$25 million ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund

\$2.5 million CDC grant for PA MMRC (2019)

\$1.8 million for Maternal Health Coalitions Grant Fund

\$1 million Merck for Mothers for City of Philadelphia (2019)

## Moving the Pennsylvania MOMNIBUS 2.0

*These bills have passed the Pennsylvania House and await action in the Senate.*

- HB 1088 Insurance Coverage for Blood Pressure Monitors
- HB 1212 PA Dads Matter Act
- HB 1234 Medicaid Expansion for Blood Pressure Monitors
- HB 1251 Midwifery Practice Innovation
- HB1851 Allowing Nurse Midwives to Complete/Affirm Vital Statistics Reports

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