

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2023 House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to address the critical maternal and infant mortality crisis by investing in our perinatal health workforce. Specifically, we ask for \$20 million to grow and diversify the doula workforce as well as \$25 million to increase our number of certified nurse midwives (CNM).

Our nation is experiencing a devastating maternal mortality and morbidity crisis with Black and Indigenous pregnant persons being three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy related causes than white women. Investing and diversifying our perinatal workforce is an essential tool for improving patient outcomes, reducing medical biases, and establishing culturally competent health care. By providing additional funding for doula and certified nurse midwives (CNM) programs, we can take meaningful steps in creating a workforce that reflects our communities.

That is why we request the following:

- **Growing and Diversifying the Doula Workforce:** \$20 million in new funding to provide grants to community-based organizations to develop and/or expand programs to recruit doula candidates, support their training/certification, and then employ them in their communities to support improved birth outcomes.
- **Growing and Diversifying the Perinatal Health Nursing Workforce:** \$25 million to award approximately 25 grants to grow and diversify the maternal and perinatal health nursing workforce by increasing and diversifying the number of Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), with a focus on practitioners working in rural and underserved communities

Congress must do all it can to protect our mothers and babies and we urge robust funding for these programs. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



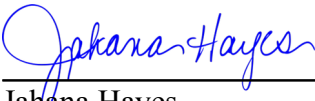
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



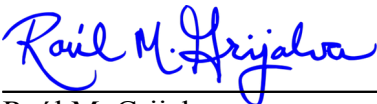
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



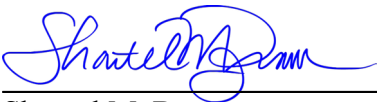
Jan Schakowsky
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Josh Gottheimer
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Shontel M. Brown
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Al Lawson
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Nikema Williams
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Maxine Waters
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Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress