



Perinatal Workforce Act

Representative Gwen Moore

Senator Tammy Baldwin

BACKGROUND

One driving force of the U.S. maternal health crisis is a lack of access to maternity care, and to culturally congruent maternity care and support specifically. More than 1,000 American counties are “maternity care deserts,” with no hospitals offering obstetric care and zero obstetric providers, and more than 2.2 million women of childbearing age live in maternity care deserts. Women in maternity care deserts are more likely to have asthma and hypertension than women in counties with full access to maternity care, putting them at greater risk for pregnancy complications and pregnancy-related death.

One solution to this glaring shortage is to grow and diversify the perinatal health workforce.

The Perinatal Workforce Act, led by Representative Gwen Moore in the House of Representatives and Senators Tammy Baldwin and Jeff Merkley in the Senate, makes historic investments to increase the number of maternity care providers and non-clinical perinatal health workers who offer culturally congruent care and support during and after pregnancy.

BILL SUMMARY

The **Perinatal Workforce Act** will:

1. Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to (1) provide guidance to states on the promotion of racially, ethnically, and professionally **diverse maternity care teams** and (2) to study how **culturally congruent maternity care** promotes better outcomes for moms, especially in communities of color.
2. Provide funding to **establish and scale programs that will grow and diversify the maternal health clinical and non-clinical workforce**, increasing the number of nurses, midwives, physician assistants, doulas, and other perinatal health workers who moms can trust throughout their pregnancies, labor and delivery, and the postpartum period.
3. Study the **barriers that prevent women – particularly from underserved communities – from entering maternity care professions** and receiving equitable compensation.

ORIGINAL COSPONSORS

The **Perinatal Workforce Act** is cosponsored by Representatives Lauren Underwood; Alma S. Adams; Ro Khanna; Nydia M. Velázquez; Lucy McBath; Adam Smith; Mary Gay Scanlon; Al Lawson; Jahana Hayes; G. K. Butterfield; Marilyn Strickland; Tim Ryan; Nikema Williams, Adam B. Schiff; Hank Johnson; Steven Horsford; Debbie Wasserman Schultz; Nanette Diaz Barragán; Ted Deutch; Donald M. Payne, Jr.; Earl Blumenauer; Seth Moulton; Darren Soto; Jerrold Nadler; David Trone; Yvette D. Clarke; Jan Schakowsky;



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Karen Bass; Ayanna Pressley; Dwight Evans; Lisa Blunt Rochester; Kathy Castor; Chrissy Houlahan; Terri A. Sewell and Senator Jeff Merkley

ENDORSEMENTS

The **Perinatal Workforce Act** is endorsed by more than 160 national organizations, listed [here](#).

Wisconsin organizations endorsing the bill include: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, UW-Health System, Planned Parenthood Wisconsin, United Way of Dane County, Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Birthing Project USA of Southeast Wisconsin, Kids Forward, SSM Health, The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness, Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC), Wisconsin Doulas of Color Collective Inc., and Birthing Intuition and Wellness Services LLC.

CONTACT

For more information or to cosponsor the **Perinatal Workforce Act**, contact Talia Rosen in Congresswoman Moore's office at Talia.Rosen@mail.house.gov or Erin Dugan at Senator Tammy Baldwin's office at Erin_Dugan@baldwin.senate.gov