



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

April 16, 2021

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
U.S. House of Representatives
1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alma Adams
U.S. House of Representatives
2436 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cory Booker
U.S. Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Underwood, Adams and Senator Booker:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I would like to thank you for introducing the *Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 (H.R. 959/S. 346)* and to express our support for this legislation to address the maternal health disparities faced by black women and other women of color.

Providing compassionate care for mothers and babies has long been an integral part of the founding ministries of Catholic health care, made up of women religious who were pioneers in the communities they served. CHA's current members also have affirmed their strong commitment to reducing health disparities and promoting health equity through our national campaign, *We Are Called*. Catholic health care is guided by the principles of Catholic social teaching, including the inherent dignity of each person; the common good; and concern for poor and vulnerable. These values call us to work to eradicate racial and ethnic disparities in access to quality health care and health outcomes, which stand in direct opposition to the mission of Catholic health care and our social tradition. The imperative to identify and eliminate racial and health disparities has only increased in urgency as it relates to quality maternal health in this country.

We support key provisions in the *Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021* as a necessary federal counterpart to our work at the community level. Those provisions include measures to address the impact of COVID-19 on pregnant women; improve telehealth; address behavioral health needs, cultural competency, gaps in the perinatal work force and the social determinants of health including the risks of climate change; and bolster the collection of data.

Thank you again for introducing this important legislation. Please contact us if you have any questions or if we may be of service in advancing this important work.

Sincerely,


Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO