



The Federal Momnibus and the Birth Equity Bills in Colorado

Federal legislation called “The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021” was introduced on Monday, February 8, 2021. It is a bold and ambitious approach to the multiple systems that create inequities in birth outcomes. As is typical for federal legislation like this, much of it is funding and reports. As a result, a robust state-level response is also needed to meet the opportunities provided by the federal bill and truly make change and save lives.

Colorado’s Birth Equity Bill Package is an ambitious state-level approach to compliment and prepare for the eventual passage of the Momnibus. Here is what they are how they work together.

Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021	Colorado’s Birth Equity Bill Package of 2021
A set of 12 federal bills that tackle the many dimensions of inequity in maternal health outcomes.	A set of three state bills that tackle the many dimensions of inequity in maternal health.
Focuses on marginalized or underrepresented communities including: Black, Indigenous, other people of color, veterans, incarcerated people, low-income people, rural people.	Focuses on marginalized or underrepresented communities including: Black, Indigenous, other people of color, incarcerated people, low-income people, rural people. The bills don’t focus on veterans at this point because more of their care is handled federally.
Convenes 8 studies or task forces to pull together information and increase understanding on issues like: social determinants of health, data collection, incarceration and perinatal care, Indigenous communities and perinatal care, emergency preparedness and pregnant people, climate change and pregnant people	Increases understanding of data collection for maternal health in Colorado through Colorado’s Maternal Mortality Review Committee and through leveraging analysis of the Colorado Action Lab.
Commissions 8 reports to increase transparency and accountability with regard to how the following dimensions impact maternal health: transportation, environmental toxins, respectful maternity care compliance, barriers low-income and minority women face in maternity care careers, technology, continuity of health insurance coverage, and emergency preparedness.	Recognizes the importance of data and information in transparency and accountability, seeks to increase data and accountability from licensed facilities that provide maternity care. Addresses barriers to critical information being made public.
Resources and prioritizes community-based responses, organizations, and programs, and diverse stakeholders with funding and representation in key roles and issue areas.	This bill is a community-based response, from community-based programs, developed through extensive listening to diverse stakeholders.
Key roles and issue areas for community-based responses, organizations, and	Addresses racial and ethnic disparities and adverse outcomes through disrespectful



<p>programs include: responses to racial and ethnic disparities, responses to adverse maternal health outcomes focusing on women of color, consideration of non-clinical factors in maternal mortality review, innovation demonstration projects with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid innovation, identifying and mitigating climate risks, increasing maternal vaccination rates.</p>	<p>maternity care through the Civil Rights Division.</p> <p>Strategy for increasing maternal vaccination rates through giving direct-entry midwives the ability to administer vaccinations.</p> <p>Consideration of non-clinical factors through consideration of human rights as a health outcome, requiring acceptance of transfers, and ensuring equity in insurance reimbursement.</p>
<p>Establishes Respectful Maternity Care Compliance programs, and development of accountability mechanisms.</p>	<p>Increases awareness of human rights as a health outcome, requires licensed facilities to have policies to uphold respectful maternity care.</p> <p>Increases accountability mechanisms through the Colorado Civil Rights Division.</p>
<p>Makes funding conditional upon state laws that prohibit shackling of incarcerated people during pregnancy.</p>	<p>Colorado already has such a law thanks to the advocacy of the same groups advancing these bills.</p>
<p>Incentivizes model programs for perinatal care of incarcerated people.</p>	<p>Establishes basic requirements for perinatal care of incarcerated people</p>
<p>Seeks to diversify and strengthen the maternity care workforce with specific attention to low-income, minority women and minority-serving institutions, address recruitment and retention.</p>	<p>Seeks to directly improve conditions for the maternity care workforce through reimbursement equity and respect, beginning with low-income, minority women in the maternity care workforce.</p> <p>Seeks to improve conditions for and integrate midwives so that the conditions for recruitment and retention of low-income, minority women in the maternity care workforce exist.</p>
<p>Alternative payment model demonstration project through Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.</p> <p>Develop the perinatal workforce with attention to minority serving institutions.</p> <p>Improve maternal mental and behavioral healthcare</p>	<p>Sets the stage for more innovation in Colorado by addressing issues that reinforce the status quo and addressing barriers to full integration of midwives.</p> <p>Sets the stage for better recruitment and retention of a diverse perinatal workforce.</p>