



Protecting Moms Who Served Act

H.R. 6141

BACKGROUND

There are nearly two million women veterans in the United States, and more than 500,000 of those individuals are under the age of 40.¹ Women are currently the fastest-growing group within the veteran population.² At the same time that more American women are serving, more American women are also dying from giving birth: the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate in the developed world, and the only rate that is rising.³ Yet despite the growing attention that America's maternal health crisis is receiving, little is known about adverse maternal health outcomes among women veterans.

The bipartisan **Protecting Moms Who Served Act** will commission the first-ever comprehensive study of the scope of America's maternal health crisis among women veterans, with a particular focus on racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes. It will also make critical investments in maternity care coordination for women veterans at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities so that moms who served can get the care they have earned.

BILL SUMMARY

The **Protecting Moms Who Served Act** will:

1. Invest in **maternity care coordination at VA facilities**, including:
 - Ensuring effective **coordination between VA facilities and non-VA facilities** in the delivery of maternity care and other health care services.
 - Facilitating access to **community resources to address social determinants of health** like housing, nutrition, and employment status.
 - Identifying **mental and behavioral health risk factors** in the prenatal and postpartum periods and ensuring that pregnant and postpartum women get the treatments they need.
 - Offering **childbirth preparation classes, parenting classes, nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, lactation classes, and breast pumps**.
2. Commission a **comprehensive study on maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity among women veterans**, with a particular focus on racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes. The study will make recommendations for the improvement of maternal health data collection processes and steps to reduce adverse maternal health outcomes among women veterans. This includes women veterans who have coverage through VA, their employers or other private insurance plans, Tricare, and Medicaid.

¹ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: [National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics](#)

² U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: [Women Veterans Health Care](#)

³ National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health: [Maternal Morbidity and Mortality](#)

COSPONSORS

The **Protecting Moms Who Served Act** is led by Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14) and Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12), members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Women Veterans Task Force. The bill has [12 cosponsors](#).

ENDORSEMENTS

The **Protecting Moms Who Served Act** is endorsed by more than 60 organizations, including the:

- Wounded Warrior Project
- DAV (Disabled American Veterans)
- AMVETS
- Women Veterans Interactive
- Black Mamas Matter Alliance
- Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP)
- Black Women's Health Imperative
- National Birth Equity Collaborative
- Mamatoto Village Inc
- Ancient Song Doula Services
- National Perinatal Task Force
- Commonsense Childbirth
- Center for Reproductive Rights
- National Partnership for Women & Families
- Families USA
- 2020 Mom
- Mom Congress
- March for Moms
- MomsRising
- Every Mother Counts
- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- National WIC Association
- American Public Health Association
- National Health Law Program
- Community Catalyst
- First Focus Campaign for Children
- American College of Physicians
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- NARAL Pro-Choice America
- Sésé Doula Services
- Lamaze International, and more.

CONTACT

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