



Social Determinants for Moms Act

H.R. 6132

BACKGROUND

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), social determinants of health are the conditions where people live, learn, work, and play – conditions that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.¹ Research from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has found that these social determinants “can drive as much as 80 percent of health outcomes.”² Addressing social determinants is especially important for reducing rates of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity for Black women, who are more than three times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes as their white counterparts.³ According to the National Perinatal Task Force, “focusing on the social determinants of health is an important step to addressing root causes for these unwavering gaps in maternal and infant health.”⁴ The **Social Determinants for Moms Act** makes key investments and advances critical research on social determinants to save moms and end disparities in maternal health outcomes.

BILL SUMMARY

The **Social Determinants for Moms Act** will:

1. Establish a **task force across agencies and departments** to coordinate federal efforts to address social determinants of health for pregnant and postpartum women.
2. Provide federal guidance on the use of **Medicaid funding to address social determinants** of health for pregnant and postpartum women.
3. Establish a **Housing for Moms** task force at the Department of Housing & Urban Development to ensure that pregnant and postpartum women have access to safe, stable, adequate housing.
4. Study the **transportation barriers** that prevent women from attending prenatal and postpartum appointments and accessing important social services.
5. **Extend WIC eligibility periods for new moms** so that women can continue to access nutritious foods, information on healthy eating, and health care referrals when they need them most.
6. Provide funding to establish and scale programs that deliver **nutritious food, infant formula, and clean water to pregnant and postpartum women in food deserts**.
7. Study the effects of **air and water pollution** on maternal and infant health outcomes and make recommendations for steps to end racial and ethnic disparities.
8. Develop strategies and provide funding to support free, drop-in **child care access** for women who need it when they have to attend prenatal and postpartum appointments.
9. Provide **grants to state, local, and tribal public health departments** to address unique social determinants of health needs in their communities.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Social Determinants of Health](#)

² Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: [Medicaid's Role in Addressing Social Determinants of Health](#)

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths](#)

⁴ National Perinatal Task Force: [Building a Movement to Birth a More Just and Loving World](#)

COSPONSORS

The **Social Determinants for Moms Act** is led by Congresswomen Lucy McBath. The bill is cosponsored by Representatives Lauren Underwood, Alma S. Adams, John Lewis, Terri Sewell, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Mary Gay Scanlon, Gwen Moore, Wm. Lacy Clay, Ro Khanna, Karen Bass, Ayanna Pressley, Al Lawson, and Charlie Crist.

ENDORSEMENTS

The **Social Determinants for Moms Act** is endorsed by more than 50 organizations, including the:

- Black Mamas Matter Alliance
- 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
- American Public Health Association
- Every Mother Counts
- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- 1,000 Days
- MomsRising
- Mom Congress
- The National Council of Urban Indian Health
- National WIC Association
- First Focus Campaign for Children
- American College of Physicians
- California Breastfeeding Coalition
- APS Foundation of America, Inc.
- Save The Mommies
- American Association of Birth Centers
- African American Breastfeeding Network
- Healing Hands Community Doula Project
- Society for Public Health Education
- Children's HealthWatch
- HealthConnect One, and more.

CONTACT

For more information or to cosponsor the bill, contact Jack DiMatteo in Rep. Underwood's office at Jack.DiMatteo@mail.house.gov or Michael Williams in Rep. McBath's office at Michael.Williams3@mail.house.gov