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Congress Must Prioritize Maternal Health

March for Moms Calls on Senate to Take Up ACA Stabilization Bill

Washington, DC--Today, as the House advances a key measure that will improve maternal healthcare by strengthening the Affordable Care Act, March for Moms praised the House of Representatives for prioritizing pregnant and birthing people in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act (H.R. 1425), and called on the Senate to take swift action.

“Health care is not a partisan issue; it is a human right. But the sad reality is that far too many women, especially Black and Indigenous women, do not have access to the maternal health care that they need,” said Katie Shea Barrett, Executive Director of March for Moms. “Hundreds of women die in this country every year during childbirth, and thousands more suffer in the shadows with devastating complications. It is time for these tragedies to end, for this country to truly protect growing families, and for Congress to extend coverage so that every mom has the care she needs through a year postpartum.”

The House, led by the Black Maternal Health Caucus, has taken important steps this year to introduce legislation that would extend Medicaid coverage for pregnant and birthing people, expand access to midwives and doulas, and incentivize anti-racist healthcare. While one component of this legislation is advancing through the House, there is more work that remains to be done to improve care for moms.

Today, in the United States, Black women are twice as likely as their peers to die in childbirth--a devastating and completely preventable statistic.

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