



Support for the Historic Momnibus & Postpartum Medicaid Investments in the Build Back Better Act

“Aligning for Health strongly supports the investments made in the Build Back Better Act to address social determinants of maternal health, to promote maternal health equity, to expand access to maternal health equity digital tools, and to strengthen maternal health programs. As a coalition dedicated to addressing the barriers and challenges that limit our ability to improve health outcomes and wellbeing for all, we commend the inclusion of these vital provisions.” -

Melissa Quick, Co-Chair, Aligning for Health

“Maternal health is a key tenet of family medicine, and family physicians see firsthand how existing inequities and lack of access to necessary care exacerbates poor maternal health outcomes. Around sixty percent of maternal deaths in the U.S. are preventable, and policymakers have an opportunity to stop this crisis by investing in maternal health and extending Medicaid postpartum coverage for at least one year. The AAFP firmly believes that everyone, regardless of insurance source, deserves continuous care during and after pregnancy. The historic investments from the Momnibus in the Build Back Better Act are essential to improving access to comprehensive maternal health care. Family physicians look forward to continuing to advocate for policies to ensure all birthing people and their families can thrive.” -

Sterling N. Ransone, Jr., MD, FAAFP, President, American Academy of Family Physicians

“At this critical time, when the opportunity is presented, a strong investment in Black maternal health cannot be missed. The Build Back Better Act includes a number of life-saving provisions from the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. Another transformative investment for improved maternal care is the provision to extend support for postpartum Medicaid services. This investment addresses health equity head on and will support all mothers who would benefit from essential postpartum services. The Academy urges that the final legislation passed and signed into law takes the necessary steps to support black mothers and their babies.” -

Kenneth White PhD, AGACNP, ACHPN, FACHE, FAAN, President, American Academy of Nursing

“The Black Maternal Health Momnibus provisions in the Build Back Better Act will profoundly impact maternal and infant health and will make significant improvements to health equity in the U.S.” -

Kate Bauer, Executive Director, American Association of Birth Centers

"The American College of Nurse-Midwives applauds Congress for inclusion of the critical Omnibus provisions aimed at improving maternal and child health in the Build Back Better Act. The United States continues to face a maternal health crisis that places Black and Brown mothers and birthing people at a disproportionate risk for adverse outcomes and mortality. The persistent and pervasive race-based disparities that have long existed in maternal and child health are unconscionable, and we must take bold steps to implement system changes so desperately needed. Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives are committed to improving maternal health services and maternal and neonatal health outcomes for Black and Brown communities and all pregnant and birthing people." - **Cathy Collins-Fulea, DNP, CNM, FACNM, President, American College of Nurse-Midwives**

"ACOG is thrilled to see historic and robust maternal health investments in the Build Back Better Act. Our nation's leaders are demonstrating their willingness to prioritize the health of pregnant and postpartum individuals across the country by ensuring that mandatory, permanent extension of Medicaid coverage, from 60 days to 12 months after the end of pregnancy, remains in the proposed legislation. Extending this lifesaving coverage is fundamental to addressing the maternal mortality crisis, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress is also taking the necessary steps toward birth equity by centering the voices, needs, and preferences of Black and Indigenous individuals—who disproportionately experience inequities in maternal health—by including provisions from the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act. These investments will help us improve Black maternal health by, among other things, addressing social determinants of health and ensuring that our perinatal workforce is diverse and representative of the patients receiving care. We appreciate the incredible work done by Senate and House leadership and their staff to prioritize and protect these critical provisions, and we urge their swift enactment." - **J. Martin Tucker, MD, President, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists**

"The Association of Black Cardiologists recognizes and supports with urgency making historic federal investments to address the dire cardiovascular and other adverse outcomes experienced by Black pregnant people and their children. Black families have suffered in silence due to structural racism and other forms of discrimination both within medicine and the broader society in a manner that has resulted in preventable maternal morbidity and mortality. The time to act is now by including in the Build Back Better Act vital investments in maternal health." - **Michelle A. Albert, MD, President, Association of Black Cardiologists**

"The Build Back Better Act proposes foundational and transformative investments to improve maternal health and eliminate long-standing racial and ethnic inequities in maternal health outcomes in the U.S. By establishing 12 months of postpartum Medicaid and CHIP coverage as the national standard and by making historic investments in solutions developed and implemented by Black, Indigenous, and other women of color, Congress and the Biden Administration will mark a turning point in our collective mission to eliminate preventable maternal death and injury and achieve maternal health equity. As a national organization

representing state leaders in public health dedicated to improving maternal and child health, we are thrilled to see a strong commitment in Congress and the Biden Administration to passing these historic maternal health equity investments as part of the Build Back Better Act. We look forward to President Biden signing these provisions into law and rolling up our sleeves up to put these programs to work for our nation's parents, children and their families." - **Terrance E.**

Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

"Black Mamas Matter Alliance thanks President Biden and Vice President Harris for championing critical maternal health equity investments in the Build Back Better Act, including those from the Momnibus and yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage. These investments must stay intact the final reconciliation package. As an alliance of Black women-led maternal health initiatives and organizations, we know, firsthand, the impact that these investments will have on our patients, families, and communities. Together, these investments work to address systemic failures and ensure that Black Mamas have the rights, respect, and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy. Congress must seize this opportunity to invest in Black maternal health, for the sake of advancing reproductive justice, birth justice, and human rights for all." - **Angela D. Aina,**

MPH, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Black Mamas Matter Alliance

"Social determinants of health such as poverty, food insecurity, and racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination are directly related to the health disparities we find in our nation. That's why investments designed to address these social determinants of health are so transformational, and why Bread for the World supports inclusion of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and other investments ensuring maternal health in the Build Back Better Act." -

Rev. Eugene Cho, President and CEO, Bread for the World

"Providing compassionate care for mothers and babies has long been an integral part of the founding ministries of Catholic health care. On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States and our 2,200 hospitals, long-term care facilities, health systems and service providers, we urge legislators to strongly support provisions that permanently expand Medicaid postpartum coverage for a full year and fund initiatives to reduce maternal health disparities for women of color. We thank Congresswoman Underwood, Congresswoman Adams, Congresswoman Kelly and Senator Booker for their leadership on these important issues." - **Sister Mary Haddad, RSM, President and CEO, Catholic Health**

Association of the United States

"The inclusion of strong maternal health provisions in the Build Back Better Act is so important, especially extending postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months. Black and Indigenous moms and birthing people deserve to have safe, healthy pregnancies and birthing experiences. Extending Medicaid coverage to one year postpartum will ensure continuous access to quality care during a critical period. The assurance of postpartum Medicaid coverage across all states means that every birthing person, regardless of where they live, can receive the care they need, when they need it. Inclusion of the Momnibus provisions will support community-based perinatal health workers, and provide resources and staffing necessary to respond to the crisis at

hand. We are grateful to Congressional leadership and members of the Black Maternal Health Caucus for championing maternal health equity and for working tirelessly to address the ongoing maternal health crisis in the United States.” - **Breana Lipscomb, Senior Manager, Maternal Health & Rights Initiative, Center for Reproductive Rights**

“Addressing and improving the mental health and well-being of birthing persons is essential to our nation’s public health. The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is thankful to see Congress include necessary investments in the Build Back Better Act that help achieve birth equity and address maternal mental health, which can support families of color during times when they may feel the most vulnerable.” - **Olivia Golden, Executive Director, CLASP**

“The Build Back Better bill is a historic step forward in addressing the country’s maternal health crisis through investments that would save lives, reduce disparities in maternal health and advance racial justice. No one should have to go through pregnancy without the care they need to recover and stay healthy, yet Black and Indigenous women continue to die after birth at much higher rates than white women due to systemic racism and barriers to care. This bill would advance birth equity by expanding health coverage postpartum to millions of birthing people and by investing in data collection and the workforce. We are grateful to the Black Maternal Health Caucus and Momnibus leaders for working alongside Black-led reproductive justice leaders to craft and advocate for these provisions and advance Black maternal health.” - **Emily Stewart, Executive Director, Community Catalyst**

“Black and Indigenous mamas, midwives, doulas, advocates, and birthing people across the country need comprehensive policy solutions to address the ongoing maternal health crisis that disproportionately impacts our communities. We are calling on Congress to make historic investments in maternal health by including provisions from the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 and expanded postpartum Medicaid coverage in the Build Back Better Act. These investments will tackle many of the social conditions that lead to the disparate maternal health outcomes we see, including systemic racism and the lack of Black and brown perinatal birth workers. The stakes are incredibly high and there is no time to wait. Moms and babies need our Congressional leaders to invest in the advancement of equitable maternal health now.” - **Dr. Dawn Godbolt, Policy Chair, Equitable Maternal Health Coalition**

“We need to Build Back Better for our country’s mothers, birthing people, and families. Every Mother Counts supports this much needed legislation, which will bring us closer than ever before to achieving quality, respectful, and equitable maternity care for all in the United States. Together, this package helps solve our country’s maternal health crisis by including all eligible components of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus, increasing access to maternity care homes, and ensuring that all state Medicaid programs include a full year of postpartum coverage. Let’s Build Back Better to make 2021 the year that we came together to take bold action to improve maternal health and birth equity.” - **Christy Turlington Burns, Founder, Every Mother Counts**

"Families USA is thrilled that Congress and the Biden administration are aiming to make significant and thoughtful investments in maternal health care through the Build Back Better Act. While the proposed framework includes important wins, such as the mandatory, permanent expansion of yearlong postpartum Medicaid & CHIP coverage, and provisions from the Momnibus, a proposed framework is not final legislative text. The fight to include these provisions in the Build Back Better Act is not over, and we call on Senate and House leadership as well as the Biden administration to ensure their inclusion in the final package." - **Lisa Shapiro, Senior Advisor for Strategy and Children's Policy, Families USA**

"HealthyWomen is thrilled that many critical provisions of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 are in the Build Back Better Act. These provisions will help address the root causes that influence maternal health outcomes and provide critical investment to improve quality of care, save lives and end racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes. HealthyWomen urges Congress to pass the historic maternal health equity investments in the Build Back Better Act." - **Beth Battaglini, RN-C, CEO, HealthyWomen**

"In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda supports the Momnibus and postpartum Medicaid investments in the Build Back Better Act. The bill provides a critical intersectional approach to some of the most pressing needs of Black pregnant people and their babies. This is why we included these maternal health investments in The Black Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda, a first-of-its-kind proactive policy document reflecting the lived experiences of Black women, femmes, and gender-expansive individuals." - **Marcela Howell, President and CEO, In Our Own Voice**

"March for Moms strongly supports the monumental maternal health equity investments of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and permanent yearlong postpartum Medicaid and CHIP coverage provision in the Build Back Better Act. We believe yearlong postpartum Medicaid and CHIP coverage in every state is key to ensure access to healthcare and support birthing people need postpartum. We support the proposed funding for community-based organizations, educational programs, bias training programs for providers, technology, and equity tools, as well as combating climate change health risks. This funding is imperative to make real change in our communities and in the lives of birthing people. In the U.S., close to two thirds of maternal deaths are preventable and we must act now to ensure no family experiences this tragic outcome." - **Laneceya L. Russ, MS, Executive Director, March for Moms**

"We commend President Biden, Vice President Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, and their colleagues for prioritizing the maternal health crisis facing black mothers with a historic investment in the Build Back Better Act including all eligible provisions of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and permanent yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage. We are very grateful to the Black Maternal Health Caucus Co-Chairs Representatives Alma Adams and Lauren Underwood and Senator Cory Booker for their leadership in advancing these investments to improve maternal health outcomes. Each year, about 700 women die from complications related to pregnancy, and the U.S. maternal mortality rate continues to remain

high. The threat of maternal mortality and morbidity is especially acute for women of color. Now is the time to enact the Build Back Better Act that represents an important first step in improving health outcomes for this at-risk population and we look forward to working on advancing these critical policies.” - **Stacey D. Stewart, President & CEO, March of Dimes**

“NARAL Pro-Choice America is proud to support the Black Maternal Health Caucus as they continue to champion maternal health and birth equity. The major investments they’ve secured in the Build Back Better Act will help address racial and ethnic maternal health disparities and save lives. These sorely-needed investments move us closer to a future where every family can thrive and every body has what they need to start, grow, or care for their families.” - **Christian LoBue, Chief Campaigns and Advocacy Officer, NARAL Pro-Choice America**

“The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH) applauds the inclusion of historic maternal health equity investments in the Build Back Better Act. As an organization committed to ending racism and bias, NPWH recognizes the significant opportunity to address social determinants of health, access to perinatal care, improvements in patient safety and quality initiatives and many more actions that can lead to the elimination of disparities in maternal health. Women's Health Nurse Practitioners (WHNP-BC) are critical members of the perinatal health care team, providing both primary and high-risk care before, during and between pregnancies. Investments in perinatal workforce development will help to assure access the full complement of maternity care providers, particularly in rural and underserved areas. WHNP-BCs are at the forefront of prevention efforts by partnering in care during pregnancy, throughout the first year postpartum, and during the transition to well woman care. To this end, it is imperative that full Medicaid and CHIP benefits be extended for a minimum of one year postpartum in all states. The potential impact of these historic investments goes well beyond pregnancy and birth. By dismantling racism and biases that affect maternal and women's health outcomes, assuring access to health care beyond the immediate postpartum period, and providing support for resources, these investments promise a brighter, healthier future for all.” - **Heather L. Maurer, CEO, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH)**

“The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners strongly urges Congress and the Biden administration to ensure that a mandatory, permanent expansion of yearlong postpartum Medicaid and CHIP coverage and provisions of the ‘Black Maternal Health Momnibus’ remain in legislation without being weakened. These programs critically strengthen maternal health and America’s pediatric nurses are counting on policy makers to address these critical needs.” - **Dr. Andrea Kline-Tilford, PhD, CPNP-AC/PC, FCCM, FAAN, President, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners**

“In light of the recent attacks on reproductive autonomy, now more than ever, it is imperative that Congress keep provisions from the Momnibus and postpartum Medicaid investments in the Build Back Better Act. The passage of this bill will represent a significant victory for Black maternal and infant health that is long overdue. Provisions from the Momnibus will address the

issue of systemic racism head-on by providing a framework of policy solutions that include: increased funding and resources necessary to address the social determinants of maternal health, grow and diversify the perinatal workforce, and aid community-based organizations to enrich the communities they serve. From the Covid-19 pandemic to the daily economic challenges faced, Black moms can't afford to wait; we need these investments now in order to thrive and achieve optimal reproductive health and sexual wellbeing." - **Dr. Joia Crear-Perry, Founder and President, National Birth Equity Collaborative**

"The National Health Law Program calls on Congress to pass the Build Back Better Act's urgent investments in maternal health equity. For too long, our country's soaring maternal health epidemic has disproportionately taken the lives of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color with low incomes. By mandating a full year of comprehensive post-pregnancy Medicaid coverage in every state, Build Back Better will help stem racial inequities in maternal health outcomes and save lives. The same is true of vital provisions incorporated from the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, which take aim at racism in health care delivery, inadequate access to vital doula and other pregnancy-related care, and other social and structural determinants of maternal health. The U.S. has what is by far the worst maternal mortality rate among peer high-income countries. That's a political choice. We urge Congress to help end this crisis by swiftly passing these essential maternal health equity reforms." - **Elizabeth Taylor, Executive Director, National Health Law Program**

"On behalf of nurses and nurse educators, we believe it is vital for the Build Back Better Act to invest in empowering local health care providers to address the social determinants of maternal health. It is also important that we grow and diversify the perinatal health workforce and that schools of nursing address maternal and infant health risks related to climate change. Additionally, we must work to advance maternal health research at minority-serving institutions like Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This is potentially a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Congress to take action to meet these important needs for the health of our nation." - **Dr. Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, President and CEO, National League for Nursing**

"Racial disparities and preventable deaths are the primary drivers for our country's maternal mortality and morbidity rates, especially among Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women. The Build Back Better bill is a critical step towards addressing racial disparities and supporting families through healthy pregnancies and safe births." - **Frank Daidone, President and CEO, National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First**

"NSNA stands in solid support of the passage of the Momnibus and postpartum Medicaid investments in the Build Back Better Act! More than ever, increased maternal health equity investments in America are needed. In support of the 2018 NSNA Resolution: INCREASED AWARENESS, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION REGARDING BLACK-AMERICAN MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY – NSNA continues to encourage its constituents to collaborate with professional nursing and healthcare organizations to increase awareness, education, and

evidence-based research on maternal and infant mortality among Black-American women and children.” - **Dr. Kenya Williams, Deputy Executive Director, National Student Nurses Association**

“The inclusion of maternal health equity investments within the Build Back Better Act demonstrates President Biden’s solid and continued commitment to the health and economic well-being of all of our nation’s mothers. Ensuring equitable access to maternal care and extending postpartum support is key to reducing health disparities. Owning the truth about those disparities and the discrimination that Black and Indigenous mothers face in our healthcare system is crucial to assuring that health inequities are eradicated. The National WIC Association looks forward to the passage and implementation of the Build Back Better Act’s maternal health equity framework to better confront and enact meaningful solutions.” - **Rev. Douglas Greenaway, President & CEO, National WIC Association**

“Nemours Children’s Health thanks President Biden and House and Senate leadership for including every eligible provision of the Momnibus and mandatory, permanent investments in yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage in the Build Back Better Act. Healthy moms support healthy babies. We urge enactment of these critical investments that will improve maternal health, reduce disparities, and promote equity.” - **Kara Odom Walker, MD, MPH, MSHS, Executive Vice President and Chief Population Health Officer, Nemours Children’s Health**

“In the United States, Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women. Investments in Black maternal health are critical to address racial disparities in health outcomes, advance maternal health equity, and to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis which has disproportionately impacted Black women. Partners In Health proudly supports the inclusion of these essential investments as part of the Build Back Better Act.” - **Sheila Davis, CEO, Partners In Health**

“As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to both address provider shortages and break down barriers to the development of a diverse health workforce has never been more urgent. To combat the health disparities illustrated throughout the pandemic and the maternal mortality crisis, it is critical that the federal government partner with health professions education to support the development of a workforce reflective of the communities it serves. The Build Back Better Act responds to this challenge by investing in the development of high-quality women’s health curricula, expanding pathways to PA education for underrepresented minority students, and ultimately addressing systemic health inequities. PAEA strongly supports these long-needed investments and urges congressional leadership and the White House to ensure their continued inclusion in a final agreement.” - **Mary Jo Bondy, DHEd, MHS, PA-C, Chief Executive Officer, Physician Assistant Education Association**

“We are thrilled that the Build Back Better framework includes critical investments in sexual and reproductive health care, including maternal health. Black women are more than three times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes, and it is way past due for

Congress to pass this legislation to address the Black maternal health crisis. People who can become pregnant need access to health care before, during, and after pregnancy. Which is why we're glad to see that this framework includes permanent year-long postpartum Medicaid coverage, funding for doulas and community-based organizations, diversifying the field of trained health care professionals, and more. Congress must pass the Build Back Better reconciliation package with all of the eligible provisions from the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act." - **Alexis McGill Johnson, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood Federation of America**

"Postpartum Support International proudly supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act in the Build Back Better Act because it will save moms' lives, end racial and ethnic maternal health disparities, invest in maternal mental health, and advance birth equity across the United States. Importantly, we support every eligible provision of the Momnibus Act and permanent yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage and urge inclusion of those provisions in the Build Back Better Act." - **Wendy Davis, Executive Director, Postpartum Support International**

"The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine strongly supports the Black Maternal Health Momnibus provisions, as well as postpartum Medicaid extension included in the House Build Back Better Act. Together, these provisions represent a historic and necessary investment to remedy the nation's maternal mortality crisis, which disproportionately claims the lives of Black and Indigenous mothers. Inequities in maternal health outcomes have persisted for far too long, and it is past time for urgent action to save the lives and promote the well-being of pregnant people and new mothers." - **William Grobman, MD, MBA, President, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine**

"With the Build Back Better (BBB) Act, Congress has an historic opportunity to address the unacceptable racial and ethnic maternal health crises in this country. The Society for Public Health Education strongly supports including a comprehensive approach to promoting maternal health equity in BBB by including every eligible provision of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and permanent yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage. The health education workforce stands ready to put these provisions into action through community engagement, education, training, and communications to ensure all moms and babies have a healthy future." - **Elaine Auld, MPH, MCHES®, Chief Executive Officer, Society for Public Health Education**

"As maternal mortality rates in the United States continue to grow—with widening disparities for Black, Indigenous, People of Color—it is imperative that we take every step necessary to address the root causes of this crisis and improve the disparities in health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum patients. For this reason, SWHR is glad to support the Build Back Better Act's inclusion of the maternal health provisions from the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and the one year of continuous Medicaid coverage for postpartum individuals. These historic investments would serve as a critical foundation for improving maternal health in this country by taking steps to end racial and ethnic maternal health disparities and save lives. SWHR urges

Congress to ensure the swift passage of these provisions to benefit all American families.” - **Kathryn G. Schubert, President & CEO, Society for Women’s Health Research**

“For years the team at Wayne State University’s Office of Women’s Health has been at the forefront to address health care disparities, especially for Black women and women of color, at all ages and stages of their lives. The Office of Women’s Health is on the front lines in Detroit, Michigan, reaching and caring for over 9,000 women as we collaborate with over 20 non-profit organizations and universities to improve health care outcomes for all women. The critical efforts to include the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 and the Medicaid investments in postpartum care in the Build Back Better Act will immediately address and improve the persistent inequities that persist in maternal healthcare.

Our country suffers from a range of crises in women’s health and its maternal and infant mortality rates rival third world countries. Social determinants of health, including poverty, neglect, malnutrition, pollution, racism, and crime, lead to increased levels of stress. This strain generates detrimental physiologic effects, measured via the burden of chronic stress. The cumulative force of such a burden creates and exacerbates sometimes deadly chronic health conditions. Black women, and women of color experience negative outcomes of these social determinants of health more frequently than White women, leading to worse health outcomes and increased health care costs. Black women and women of color experience health disparities in pregnancy, COVID-19 infection and virtually every other measurable element of health. Improvement of health requires addressing physiologic conditions as well as associated social determinants of health that impact women’s overall well-being. The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act within the Build Back Better Act is a key part of the solution.

The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and the Medicaid investments in postpartum care in the Build Back Better Act are critical. These key investments will be transformational for making progress in the fight against health disparities in women’s health. It should be quickly passed and signed into law.” - **Office of Women’s Health, Wayne State University**

“It takes a village to raise a child. But first, that village must safely deliver a healthy baby to a healthy mom-and that takes all of us. We must do better. Too many moms in the U.S., especially Black moms, don’t get the maternal healthcare they need and deserve, too many moms die or nearly do, and far too many suffer devastating long-term health consequences. Every maternal death is unthinkable, but any death that could have been prevented with the proper care should be considered unacceptable. That’s why the What to Expect Project and I urge Congress to pass and President Biden to sign into law the historic maternal health equity investments in the Build Back Better Act. Expanding and extending postpartum Medicaid coverage to a full year will save lives, ensuring that more moms will get covered and stay covered. Strengthening the perinatal workforce, including doulas and mental healthcare providers, will provide better, more respectful and responsive maternal healthcare, ensuring that moms will be seen, heard, cared for and about. The challenges are greater than ever – but so is the urgency of our collective responsibility to deliver that care, without exceptions, without disparities, and definitely without

the arbitrary use-by dates that currently allow too many moms to fall through the cracks in maternal healthcare. We're grateful for the leadership and tireless efforts and commitment from Representatives Underwood and Adams and the Black Maternal Health Caucus to promote equitable and empowering care for all moms." - **Heidi Murkoff, Founder, What to Expect Project; Author, What to Expect When You're Expecting**

"WomenHeart is thrilled that the Build Back Better Act makes historic investments in maternal health, and we are eager for this legislation to pass so we can deepen the work of improving health outcomes and tackling disparities for women most affected. We know that heart health and maternal health are inextricably linked and that heart disease and maternal mortality have a disproportionate impact on Black and indigenous women. This bill's investments in programs including Medicaid, mitigating social determinants of health, and expanding digital technology to support maternal health equity will not only advance maternal health overall but improve heart health as well." - **Celina Gorre, CEO, WomenHeart**