

# *The Modernizing Obstetric Medicine Standards Act* (MOMS Act)

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

The US has the highest rate of maternal mortality of the industrialized world, and is one of just a small number of countries in which the maternal mortality rate is rising. Some of the common causes of these maternal deaths or injuries are cardiac disease, hemorrhage, hypertensive disease and preeclampsia, embolic disease, and sepsis. While maternal mortality is on the rise around the country for all women, there is a disproportionate impact on black women, who according to the CDC, are two to three times more likely to die from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth than are their white counterparts.

Recent reports have found that despite recommendations developed by doctors and researchers through the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health, not all hospitals and states have taken steps to implement part or all of the maternal care best practices, and the majority of hospitals provide uneven maternity and obstetric care. These reports found that each year an estimated 50,000 women are severely injured during childbirth, while at least 700 die. The CDC estimates that 2 out of 3 of these deaths are preventable.

The *Modernizing Obstetric Medicine Standards Act (MOMS Act)*, would address maternal mortality and morbidity by providing states and hospitals with access to new resources to develop and implement standardized best practices to prevent and respond to complications arising from pregnancy.

Specifically, the **MOMS Act** would:

- **Authorize and expand the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) Program at HHS.** The AIM program develops and helps to facilitate implementation of standardized, evidenced-based processes, called maternal safety bundles, to help reduce maternal deaths, and prevent, and respond to pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated complications. The MOMS Act would authorize the AIM program for five years.
- **Create a grant program to help states and hospitals implement the maternal safety best practices.** Authorizes \$40 million each year for five years in new funds to help states and hospitals purchase the necessary supplies and conduct training to fully implement the standardized maternal safety best practices developed by the AIM program. Funding would be prioritized to hospitals serving low-income, at-risk, and rural populations.
- **Improve the CDC's Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System.** Instructs the CDC to incorporate reports from state Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) investigations into its reporting systems and to provide technical assistance so that MMRCs can investigate pregnancy-related complications that do not result in a death.

Supported by MomsRising, the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, the National Birth Equity Collaborative, and Every Mother Counts.