



Moms Matter Act

Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester

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BACKGROUND

According to maternal mortality review committees (MMRCs) that examine pregnancy-related deaths in their respective states, “mental health conditions are one of the leading causes of pregnancy-related death.”¹ MMRCs have also been assessing substance use disorder as a contributing factor in maternal deaths, recognizing the overall national trend of drug overdose deaths *tripling* from 1999-2014.²

These challenges are most acute for low-income and minority families: according to the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), more than half of poor infants live with a mother who has some level of depressive symptoms.³ Research has found that from 2006-2017, suicidal ideation and intentional self-harm increased significantly for Black women during their pregnancies and up to one year postpartum.⁴

The bipartisan **Moms Matter Act** will make investments in programs to support moms with maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders. It also provides critical funding to grow and diversify the maternal mental and behavioral health care workforce.

BILL SUMMARY

The **Moms Matter Act** will:

1. Establish a **Maternal Mental Health Equity Grant Program** to invest in local initiatives supporting people with mental health conditions or substance use disorders during or after pregnancy.
2. Provide funding for programs to **grow and diversify the maternal mental and behavioral health care workforce** to expand access to high-quality maternal mental health care and substance use disorder services.

ENDORSEMENTS

The **Moms Matter Act** is endorsed by more than 180 organizations, listed [here](#).

¹ CDC Foundation: [Report from Nine Maternal Mortality Review Committees](#)

² CDC Foundation: [Report from Nine Maternal Mortality Review Committees](#)

³ CLASP: [Maternal Depression and Young Adult Mental Health](#)

⁴ Admon, Dalton, & Kolenic: [Trends in Suicidality 1 Year Before and After Birth Among Commercially Insured Childbearing Individuals in the United States, 2006-2017](#).