



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

It's a bird. It's a plane. It's a Momnibus.

December 2, 2021

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The [**Protecting Moms Who Served Act**](#) (H.R. 598/S. 796) — which passed Congress with unanimous bipartisan support — became law with President Biden's signature this week. It is the first bill in the 12-bill package known as The Momnibus to become law. The bill, led by Illinois Democrats Rep. Lauren Underwood and Sen. Tammy Duckworth, makes key investments to ensure every veteran receives excellent care during and after pregnancy.

The House also passed the [**Maternal Vaccination Act**](#), another of the Momnibus bills, which provides funding to increase maternal vaccination rates and reduce vaccination disparities.

The United States has the highest pregnancy-related death rate in the developed world. The maternal mortality rate is significantly higher among Black women, who are three-to-four times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related complications. Hispanic, Native American, and Asian American and Pacific Islander women also suffer from disproportionate rates of adverse maternal health outcomes.


The [**Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021**](#) builds on existing maternal health legislation, including policies to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage. Each of the 12 titles of the Momnibus was introduced as a standalone bill by a member of the Black Maternal Health Caucus. A summary of each of those bills can be found [**here**](#). More than 250 organizations have


endorsed the Momnibus. **First Focus Campaign for Children** has endorsed all 12 bills individually and the Momnibus as a whole.


PROTECTING MOMS WHO SERVED ACT

SIGNED INTO LAW

REPS. LAUREN UNDERWOOD & GUS BILIRAKIS
SENS. TAMMY DUCKWORTH & SUSAN COLLINS

 Codifies and strengthens the Department of Veterans Affairs maternity care program to ensure veterans have access to world-class care during and after pregnancy

 Invests in trainings to ensure community maternal health care professionals understand the unique needs of their veteran patients

 Commissions the first-ever comprehensive study of maternal mortality among veterans

New York and Puerto Rico lead by example on child poverty.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul last night [signed into law a child poverty reduction target that aims to cut child poverty in the state by 50% within 10 years](#). Puerto Rico's legislature sent a child poverty reduction target to Governor Pedro Pierluisi's desk earlier this week.

New York joins California, which passed [similar legislation in recent years](#), in setting concrete targets for reducing child poverty. Advocates also have launched a [campaign in Maine](#). [Several cities also are working](#) to create targets.

First Focus Campaign for Children, along with members of our [U.S. Child Poverty Action Group](#), continues to advocate in Congress for a national target, ideally through passage of the [Child Poverty Reduction Act](#) (S. 643/H.R. 1558). The expanded child tax credit and other assistance contained in the American Rescue Plan has dramatically cut child poverty. A target would ensure that these gains hold and expand.

An estimated 900,000 children in New York live in poverty. In Puerto Rico, child poverty has remained above 50% for decades. Nationally, the child poverty rate **dropped nearly 3 percentage points in 2020 to 9.7%** in the wake of pandemic support programs.

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