

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WOMEN PHYSICIANS SECTION

Resolution: 1
(June 2022)

Introduced by: Suriya Sastri, MD

Subject: Strategies to Mitigate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal and Fetal Morbidity and Mortality at the Grassroots Level

Referred to: Reference Committee
(, MD, Chair)

1 Whereas, The United States has the highest maternal and infant mortality rates among
2 comparable developed countries, specifically in survival rates of African American mothers and
3 their infants,^{1,2} and the rates for maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity are about
4 three times higher for women who received C-sections versus vaginal deliveries,³ and academic
5 consensus recommend an urgency in implementation and tracking of remedial actions;^{1,2} and
6

7 Whereas, In the United States, Black women are more likely to receive C-sections when
8 compared to other women of color groups and white women, when adjusted for variables, even
9 among low-risk cohorts;^{3,4,5} and

10 Whereas, Mothers who were Medicaid recipients and received prenatal education and childbirth
11 support from trained doulas had lower odds of Cesarean sections and preterm births compared
12 to mothers who did not receive doula services;⁶ and

13 Whereas, Improving access to care, inclusivity of people of color, health prevention, affordable
14 healthcare and insurance coverage, tracking of quality outcome measures linked to provider
15 incentives are methods suited for eliminating racial disparities;^{5,6,7,8,9} and

16 Whereas, Eliminating barriers to training and licensure of a workforce pipeline inclusive of
17 doulas, midwives,^{6,10} and family physicians^{11,12,13} who provide maternity services made available
18 in rural and urban areas to supplement support to women can potentially reduce C-section rates
19 that put women and infants at risk;^{10,11,12,13} therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate for institutional and departmental policies that promote
21 awareness and transparency in defining the criteria for identifying and mitigating gaps in health
22 equity in Maternal Fetal outcome measures affecting racial and minority U.S. population
23 (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That our AMA engage with relevant stakeholders to initiate a similar awareness
25 campaign for public health education and health prevention at the grassroots level in the
26 communities, and advocate Medicaid and affordable insurance coverage for ancillary support
27 services. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal note: TBD

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY

1. Disparities in Maternal Mortality D-420.993
2. Reducing Inequities and Improving Access to Insurance for Maternal Health Care H-185.917

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